

**Life Group Leader Notes**  
**April 6, 2025**  
**A Church that Changes People's Lives**

In Nehemiah chapter 8, we have a revival. Hearts are changed, the community is challenged, and by the end of this chapter, everyone is in a different place from where they began. Lives are changed amid God's community. Come as YOU ARE – LEAVE different.

**A Church that changes people's lives:**

1. Is COMMITTED to HEARING God through the WORD

**Nehemiah 8:1-6 ESV**

The people hungered for God's Word. You know you have come to Christ when you love the Word, hunger for God's truth, and want to be taught. We are a Bible-honoring Church. We do what is in the Bible.

**Discussion:** How do you personally cultivate a hunger for God's Word in your daily life? Discuss ways to support each other in hearing and actively doing what the Bible teaches.

**A Church that changes people's lives:**

2. Helps you UNDERSTAND the WORD

**Nehemiah 8:7-12ESV**

A. The Bible can be CONFUSING.

B. The Bible can be CONTORTED.

Scripture can be twisted to destroy you. When Scripture is used for personal gain, it leads to devastation, but when correctly taught, it brings life and renewal.

C. The Bible can be LIFE-CHANGING.

You need a Church with elders and teachers who shepherd you in understanding the Word.

**Discussion:** What challenges have you faced in understanding the Bible, and how has the church helped you overcome these challenges?

**A Church that changes people's lives:**

3. RESPONDS to the Word ACCORDING to the WORD

**Nehemiah 8:9-12 ESV**

God's Word has an effect when there is:

A. CONVICTION of sin.

**Romans 3:20 ESV**

The Bible should confront you. Preaching that does not bring repentance is simply cheerleading.

B. A CLEAR VIEW of Jesus.

Galatians 3:24 ESV

C. COURAGE.

Nehemiah 8:10 ESV

The people were convicted, forgiven, and told to take strength in God.

D. CELEBRATION.

Nehemiah 8:11-12 ESV

The people moved from desire to the Word, from conviction of their sin to celebrating God's compassion and goodness toward them.

When you WALLOW in SORROW, you let SIN WIN.

Psalms 119:162 ESV

Romans 7:24-25 ESV

Discussion: Reflect on a time when the Word of God led you to recognize and confront a specific sin in your life.

### **A Church that Changes People's Lives:**

4. EMPOWERS them to reach a NEW LEVEL.

Nehemiah 8:13-15 ESV

The Feast of Booths is one of three pilgrimage festivals. During it, the people were to come to Jerusalem and celebrate together. They would make booths. It is a picture of Heaven.

God will one day bring us home to live in the booths He has built for us.

Nehemiah 8:16 ESV

Our church's prayer for you every week:

Come as YOU ARE, LEAVE different.

Discussion: In what ways do you hope to 'come as you are and leave different' from each church gathering, mirroring the transformation expected at the ultimate heavenly gathering?"