

HEARTS STIRRED

by God's Word

Nehemiah 8

1. Let's have a willing, **EXPECTANT**, and devoted heart as we approach and hear God's Word. (verses 1-3; John 6:63, 8:31-32; Proverbs 4:20-21; Malachi 4:4; Ephesians 3:21; Acts 17:11, 20:7-12)
2. Let's have an **ATTENTIVE**, reverent, and **WORSHIPFUL** heart as we approach and hear God's Word. (verses 3-6; Psalm 106:12; Luke 1:46-55; 1 Timothy 4:13; Colossians 3:16; John 4:24; Hebrews 12:28-29)
3. Always seek a greater **UNDERSTANDING** of God's Word. (verses 7-8; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Psalm 19:7, 119:130; Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 2:15)
4. God's Word will pierce our heart with **GRIEF** over our sin, but God's grace in revealing His promises and His **FORGIVENESS** will lead to great **JOY!** (verses 9-12; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 61:3; Psalm 32, 51; Luke 15:23; Genesis 45:5)
5. Obedience to God's Word is not a **SUGGESTION**. When God opens our eyes to something, let's have a **RESPONSIVE** heart. (verses 13-18; Matthew 7:24; James 1:21-22; Psalm 119:105; Luke 11:28; Acts 2:41, 5:29; Leviticus 23:24, 29:1; Ezra 7:10; John 14:15; 1 Samuel 15:22)
6. The **JOY** of the **LORD** is my **STRENGTH!** (verse 10,17; Exodus 15:2; Psalm 16:11, 28:7,8; Isaiah 12:2, 41:10; Romans 15:13; Philippians 4:4; John 15:11)



Taking it further to help you THRIVE...

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say "See you next week" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!
For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit thrivekg.org/thrive-groups.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some distractions that prevent you from reading or otherwise receiving God's Word? What can we do to help overcome these distractions?
3. There are many ways we are able to hear God's Word. The first two message points talked about 6 'hearts' we are to have when approaching and hearing God's Word. Point five included a 7th 'heart' we are to have. Give a practical way we can exemplify each of these '7 hearts'. Which heart(s) might you struggle to have?
4. Many people might avoid the Bible because they know what they are doing is wrong, and the Bible will speak against it. Others receive God's corrective Word that leads to true freedom. When God's law was read, the people of Israel definitely felt the sting of remorse. How do we move from a place of remorse over our sin to a place of freedom, renewal, and strength?
5. On the second day (verse 13), the family leaders gathered with the priests and Levites to study the word even more. What discovery did they make that day? What did they do as a result of this discovery? What did all of this symbolize/memorialize, and why was it important that they walk this out in obedience? What is the significance of all this for us today?
6. "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). What is the joy of the Lord? How do we receive this joy? How is His joy our strength?