

NEHEMIAH 8-13

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

We continue the story of Nehemiah after the walls have been finished! The construction has taken place and now **consecration** is needed. To be consecrated is to be set apart for the purposes of God. Ezra reads out the Law of the Lord to the people, and it is interpreted by the Levites. The people respond to the reading of the Law by weeping and mourning because they realized the ways that they had fallen short. The leaders of the people remind them that there is a reason for joy, not mourning, even though they had strayed away. Nehemiah said, "This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." They celebrate obeying God's commands by celebrating the Feast of Booths.

Feasts were really important days for the people of Israel. God commanded His people to rejoice because they remembered what He had done for them. The **Feast of Booths** looks back on God's presence and provision in the wilderness and looks forward to Christ's presence as He dwells with His people forever. After, they gather all together to **confess** their sin to the Lord. To confess means to tell the truth about something you did wrong. They then have a long prayer that retells Israel's history of God's faithfulness despite their unfaithfulness. It is a big recap! The people commit themselves to complete devotion to God, and to return to Him and follow Him.

The book of Nehemiah wraps up, there is a dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, and this is done with a celebration! The people sing in joyful **worship** praises to God. Worship is the proper response to who God is and what He has done. However, there is an unfortunate ending. Nehemiah hears that the people fall back to their old sins and go away from their commitment to God. This is a reminder to us that it is easy to drift away from God, and we need reminders to stay committed to Him.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Word and God's Spirit led God's people to turn back to Him
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of the law • Repentance and Revival • Dedication of the wall • Nehemiah's last reforms
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nehemiah 8:1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." • Nehemiah 9:17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love." • Nehemiah 13:14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "Remember me for this, my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services."
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consecration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ To be set apart for the purposes of God • Feast of Booths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Looks back on God's presence and provision in the wilderness and looks forward to Christ's presence as He dwells with His people forever • Confess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ To tell the truth about something you did wrong • Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The proper response to who God is and what He has done.

Reflection Questions

1.	How do the people respond to the reading of the Law?
2.	What is a feast? What feast do the people celebrate?
3.	What is confession? Are there any sins that you need to confess to the Lord or others?