

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

NEHEMIAH SERIES

These questions are for the **November 13, 2016** sermon, "The Wall of Rejoicing." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 12:27-47) together out loud.

TO EXPERIENCE DEEP JOY, NOTE . . .

1. **The purity God expects among us.** (27-30)
 - A. Note that the priests, then the people were purified, then the wall and gates.
 - B. As you pursue God's joy, your soul expands to receive it, but
 - C. As you pursue this world's happiness, your soul shrinks in its ability to receive it.
2. **The witness God produces through us.** (31-43)
 - A. Nehemiah places the leaders on the wall.
 - B. The wall was built with God's glory as its aim, not merely the people's security.
 - C. The people's joy could be heard far and wide. They turned the celebration up.
 - D. There is a connection between suffering and joy when you wait on the Lord.
 - E. There is no connection between suffering and happiness.
3. **The tithes and offerings God desires from us.** (44-47)
 - A. "We make a living by what we earn, but we make a life by what we give." -Ramsey
 - B. The tithe is not for God. The tithe teaches us to keep God first.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Where has impurity crept into your life over the past several years? In speech, in entertainment? in what you will tolerate? In your thought life? What steps must you take in order to purify yourself? Are you willing to do this?
2. Based on #2, above: When the waiting is over, God will put the joy of his people on display for all the world to see that he is faithful. How can this truth carry through your days of suffering? What are you learning about God while you wait? What are you learning about joy while you wait?
3. Based on #2, above: We talked a lot about the difference between joy and happiness in this text? What is the difference? In this "whatever makes you happy" world, what steps do we need to take to pursue joy? How can we raise kids who understand the difference and pursue God in joy?
4. Based on #2, above: What do you often pursue because it seems to promise to make you or your family happy? How might you stop it?
5. Based on #3, above: What is your personal pattern in the area of tithes and offerings? Through this discipline, how is God teaching you to keep him first?