



Week 5 | Nehemiah | August 4

Key Focus: “For the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

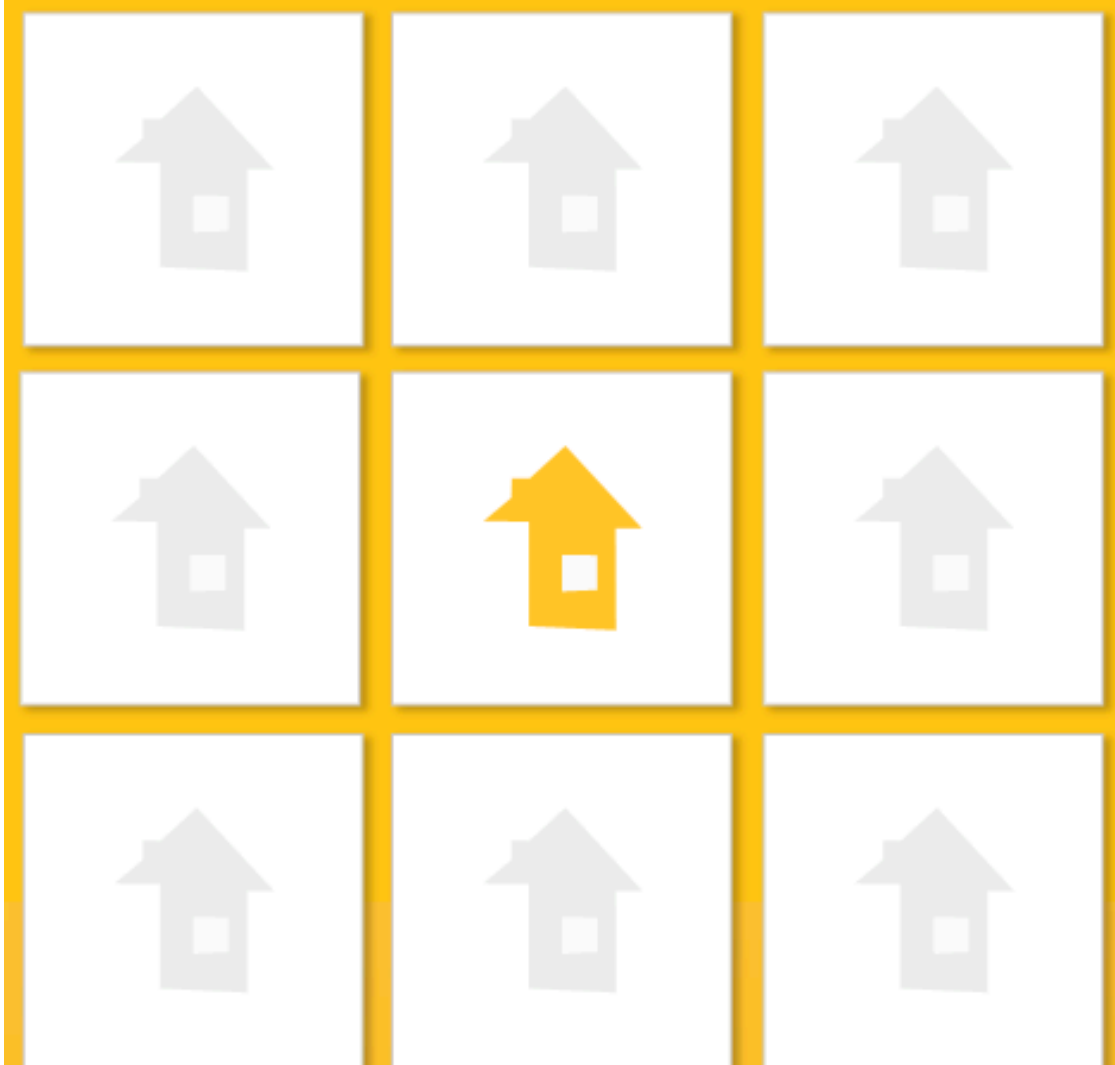
Opening Up:

- Are you a “baby person?” Explain.
- If you have smelled a newly born baby, describe it to the group?
- What is your earliest memory? Why can’t you remember any earlier?
- When you were you child who were your biggest fans? What encouraging words do you remember being said?

Reference: Nehemiah 8-9

Discuss:

1. In Nehemiah 8:8 the people come to a “clear” understanding of God’s word. In Nehemiah 9:32 God is described as a “great,” “mighty,” “awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love.” How would you describe steadfast love? How have you experienced God’s steadfast love?
2. In Nehemiah 8:10 the bible says the “joy of the Lord is your strength.” Note, it is not your joy, but God’s joy that gives you strength. How does the joy of a parent strengthen or weaken you? How does God’s joy strengthen you?
3. In Nehemiah 9:17 it says, that the people “refused to obey,” but God is a God “ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.” What do these words tell you about God’s character? How would these words feel if the were applied by a mom or a dad in your life? How do they feel hearing them from God?
4. In Matthew 22:37-40 we read about the life of Christian obedience. Jesus boils down our obedience to God in two ways, loving God and loving our neighbor. How would you describe your relationship to your actual neighbors? When you attempted fill in the names on your neighborhood map, how well do you do? What is hard about this exercise? Do you know your neighbors stories?
5. We have been blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2). Look at the BLESS acronym. How can you “bless” your neighbors?
6. The “S” in bless is to share your story. You can share your store by using the following outline. Let a couple of people share their stories, and speak to those stories highlighting the gospel.
 1. Creation - Identity
 2. Fall - Problem
 3. Redemption - Solution (False Saviors)
 4. Restoration - Hope



Be Prayerful
Listen
Eat
Serve
Share

