



## Week 7 | Nehemiah | September 18

**Key Focus:** “One of the best ways to enjoy God is through creating and admiring beautiful art in community.”

### Opening Up:

- What is the best concert you have ever been too? Explain.
- Have you ever closed your eyes and felt the peace the God through music?
- What do you want to listen to when you are down?
- What do you want to listen to when you need to get work done?
- What do you want to listen to when you are happy?
- What do you want to listen to when you are relaxing?

**Reference:** Nehemiah 11 - 12

### Discuss:

1. In Nehemiah 11:1-6 those who are repopulating Jerusalem are said to have valor. They chose to live in a rough neighborhood. It’s been said that Jesus put on flesh and “moved into the neighborhood.” How is being a good neighbor a courageous act? What would happen in our city if we had men and women of valor moving into rough neighborhoods?
2. In the book, *The Neighboring Church*, Rusaw asks, “Is it possible we have created a culture of volunteers who serve others but not a culture of disciples who love their neighbors as themselves?” What would make your neighborhood more neighborly? How can you help that?
3. Nehemiah 11 lists the names of people moving back to the city. This was a list of honor. Have you ever really wanted your name on a list? Is anyone in your family history on a list of honor? How does having your name in the “Lamb’s Book of Life” effect how you live?
4. In Nehemiah 8:10 we see that it is “the joy of the Lord” that gives us strength. In Hebrews 12:2 we see that the joy of Jesus is why he kept running the race all the way to the cross. How does it effect you to know that God’s joy to rescue came at such a high cost to him?
5. Since God’s joy to rescue you came at such a high cost, is it not appropriate to sometimes throw elaborate celebrations to his glory? Do you feel a tension between the churches love of the poor, the stewardship of resources, and God’s deserving our highest praise? Explain the tension?
6. Why is singing songs together an appropriate way of praising God? What ways has singing songs served you in your life?
7. You could hear the singing to God from far way says, Nehemiah 12:43. Have you ever felt like you just needed to go all out in your praise to God? Explain.
8. Why are artist necessary for the church? Describe what a church without artist would look like?
9. Pray.