

LEADERS—Please remember that next week is the final week of discussion questions that we will produce for a while. We'll resume them in the fall as we regather. If you haven't done so already, this is a great week to talk about how you will stay in touch over the summer months. We encourage you to hike together, share meals, camp, go to Tahiti, etc., etc. It's important to take a break, but it's also important to stay in touch.

We are again out of sync across our campuses, so questions are being handled separately for the Erie campus. The questions themselves are also a bit more streamlined these last couple weeks.

Erie Campus Discussion Questions

(Scroll down for Boulder and Thornton)

Week of 5/19/24

Text: Nehemiah 8

Icebreaker: What makes you feel strong? What makes you feel weak?

1. Read 8. What stands out to you from the sermon or from the chapter?

2. Why do you think the reading of God's word was such a pivotal moment for the Israelites? How can regular exposure to Scripture impact our lives today?

We have such incredible access to the Bible today—printed, audio, apps, etc. The most important thing is to invest regular time and energy into knowing it.

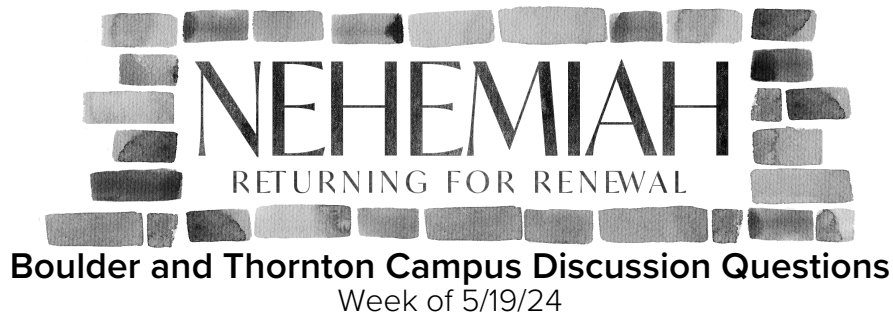
3. Why do you think the people responded in mourning and weeping? Have you ever experienced sorrow after reading God's Word? Why or why not?

God's Word has the power of God's Spirit behind it to bring conviction of sin. God's Word reveals what's true about life and our own hearts and minds.

4. Why did Nehemiah tell the people to rejoice and not mourn?

According to God's Word, this was a time set aside for rejoicing over the memory of what God had done in the past.

5. The people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles after hearing and understanding God's word. What action can you take this week after hearing God's word?



NEHEMIAH
RETURNING FOR RENEWAL

Boulder and Thornton Campus Discussion Questions
Week of 5/19/24

Text: Nehemiah 9

Icebreaker: What is your favorite Bible story? Why?

1. Read chapter 9. What stands out to you from the sermon or from the chapter?

2. The chapter begins with a description of the people searching their own hearts as they continued to read from God's Word. What is it about God's Word that can lead us to this kind of response?

God's Word contains the power and conviction of God's Spirit. It helps soften our hearts and open our minds to the true nature of life and what is happening in our hearts. It exposes areas of sin and unfaithfulness, which in-turn can lead us to repentance.

3. What attributes or qualities of God are celebrated in this chapter? Why is it important for us to continuously remember these?

There are many to choose from and they hopefully help remind us of how we can put our trust and confidence in this ever-faithful, ever-present, ever-powerful God.

4. The memory of God's mighty and faithful actions inspires confession of sin later in the chapter. How do you think confession can help us grow in our experience of God's character?

Confession helps us repeatedly experience God's forgiveness and grace.

5. The chapter ends with a distressed community's recommitment to live according to God's ways as they made "a firm covenant in writing." What are some practical steps we can take to renew our commitment to the Lord?

This question implies that we may go through seasons where we drift spiritually and realize that we are in need of reaffirming our commitment to the Lord. 1 John 1:9 tells us that God is faithful to forgive us when we confess our sins to him. That's the best starting point for us, but it's also good to express our need for renewal to other believers who can help encourage us and guide us into habits (like regular reading of Scripture, prayer, consistent fellowship, etc.) that will nourish our faith.