

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## NEHEMIAH SERIES

These questions are for the **October 30, 2016** sermon, "A Spiritual Awakening." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 8:1-18) together out loud.

WHEN GOD BRINGS REVIVAL . . .

1. **His Word will be central.** (1-8)
  - A. There will be a corporate desire for God's Word.
  - B. There will be a corporate respect for God's Word.
  - C. There will be a corporate response to God's Word.
    - i. Hands: raised; voices: raised ("Amen!"); faces: lowered in repentance.
    - ii. Note the new priority placed on going directly to God's Word.
2. **His joy will bring strength.** (9-12)
  - A. The "joy of the Lord" . . .
    - i. is full recognition of your sin AND God's forgiveness. (9)
    - ii. flourishes with clear and growing understanding of God's Word (8, 9 & 12).
    - iii. is a deeply held conviction regarding God's sovereignty. (vv. 1-18)
    - iv. brings incredible unity in the Body of Christ. (10, 12)
    - v. brings peace to the heart of the believer. (10, 11)
    - vi. produces strength to believe, to live and to work. (10)
  - B. Rejoice, understand the Word, repent and share what you have with your neighbor in need.
3. **His faithfulness will be recognized** (13-18)
  - A. Though the Israelites had less Temple, less land, no earthly (Jewish king), they rejoiced!
  - B. They observe the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time in 1,000 years.
  - C. They look ahead to the future with hope, newly experiencing God's faithfulness.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Describe what it would look like for God to be central in your life. What attitudes, actions or words would change? In what ways have you put God's Word in the center of your life recently?
2. Based on #2, above: Discuss these questions that might help you answer the question: "Do I have the 'joy of the Lord'?"
  - Do I have a pattern of sin in my life that I am living under the weight of?
  - Do I understand the "heart" (relationship) of forgiveness? Or just the "head"?
  - Am I growing in my understanding of and application of the Word in my life?
  - Do I delight in God's sovereignty? Has this delight brought peace & calm to my heart?
  - Do I rip on other believers (personality, convictions, worship style, etc.)?
  - Am I in a constant state of weakness?
3. Based on #3, above: You may have "less than you used to have," or "less than want," but how does recognizing and celebrating what you already have in Christ help your joy and strength?