

Passage Study Guide - Why We Gather (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

Series: Why



Part 1: Getting to the Big Idea

Questions get to the Big Idea of the passage

For a quick overview of the book of Nehemiah, see [The Bible Project: Nehemiah](#)

1. Summarize the background context of the book of Nehemiah. What are some important themes in this book?
2. Why were the people gathering to hear Nehemiah? What was the role of the Book of the Law of Moses (v1) in the nation of God's people and the rebuilding project?
3. How did the gathering reflect a kind of "worship service?" How did Nehemiah encourage the people who were returning and rebuilding (v9-10)?
4. How did the people respond to the reading and explanation of God's word? Why did they respond to God's word in those ways?
5. Scripture commands us to gather for corporate worship and hearing of God's word. Consider the following activities:
 - a) Weekly Community Group Meetings
 - b) Tuning in to good Christian sermons or podcasts online
 - c) Personal devotion and reading

How might these activities be different from Sunday worship?

6. It can be easy to view the above activities as substitutes for gathered worship on Sunday. What are the underlying misconceptions about worship or what following Jesus looks like?
7. Look at the following liturgical elements in our worship services. Which of these elements do we struggle to respond with faith and repentance on a Sunday? How is each aspect supposed to correspond to the gospel and apply it to our hearts?
 - Welcome & Call to Worship
 - Singing
 - Confession & Assurance
 - Pastoral Prayer
 - Scripture Reading and Sermon
 - Communion
 - Truths that make us sing (catechism/creed)
 - Announcements
 - Benediction
8. How do the person and work of Jesus encourage us to draw near to Him on Sundays with faith and expectation? Think about how the gathered exiles were encouraged by the reading

of God's law. How do our worship services continue to shape our lives with the gospel?