

Nehemiah: Dedication of the Wall

Nehemiah 12

MAIN IDEAS

1. There is joy in praising God.
2. God deserves our best.
3. God cares about the heart of the worshiper.
4. The heart of the worshiper is focused on God.
5. Praise and thanksgiving to God is vital to the church.

Describe the celebration as the Israelites dedicated the wall: who was there, where did they celebrate, what did they do?

What word is repeated multiple times in verse 43?

How do you see the Israelites giving God their best in dedicating the wall?

What role did purification play in the Israelites' dedication of the wall to God?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Is your joy in the Lord tied to who He is or your situation?

How do you grow a heart that desires and praises God even in trying circumstances?

Do you intentionally participate in corporate praise or worship beyond Sunday service? If not, why not? What could you do to change that?

How does God show you that He cares about your heart's posture before Him?

Pray:

- Thanksgiving to God for the joy we have in Him.
- Thanksgiving to God for the gift of praise music and reverent worship.
- That God would move in us to be like the restored Israelites and we would dedicate our lives to Him anew.
- That our collective worship of God would be “heard” by those outside the church family.

GROUP RESPONSE

Knowing we will be singing God’s praises in heaven with brothers and sisters throughout the ages, what can your group do now that mirrors that kind of joy and celebration?

How can your group grow a collective heart posture of worship before God as they meet together?

Consider sharing a time of praise and thanksgiving with another group.

REPRODUCE

Do you struggle to choose joy in your worship of God? Tell a brother or sister so they can pray with/for you and you can discover together who God is in His word.

Do you know of a brother or sister who struggles to have joy in the Lord? Come alongside him/her with prayer and share the wonder of God in the pages of scripture.

Invite someone outside the faith to join you on a Sunday morning so they, too, can see the Lord is good.

KEY VERSES

- Nehemiah 12