

Small Group Material: New Walls, New Heart 5

Joyful Celebration: Neh 12:27-43

Welcome (10 mins) Can you recall a time when you celebrated like never before and why?

Worship (15 mins) Watch this video: Joy of the Lord - Rend Collective
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVlhb-c_4Tw
Sing along if you can and enjoy celebrating!

Write down or call out all the many different things you are thankful for. It could be who God is, what he has said, or what he has done or is doing in your life or the lives of others. Let's be specific.

Word (35-40mins)

The wall had been built and many had gathered to dedicate it and celebrate its completion together. They wanted to give God the glory for all he had done and thank him for his faithfulness and providence.

- How did they celebrate? v27, 28, 43

Their celebrations were joyful, being led by choirs, they sang together praise to the Lord. They also used a whole plethora of instruments to make a joyful noise to the Lord and aid their worship. How does this compare to us now in 2019?

- What are some of the many reasons we have to worship God
- What was significant about worshipping on top of the walls? v31

This allowed them to acknowledge every single part of the wall as they had two processions. This also allowed the rest of the surrounding people to see and hear their worship, acting as a profound and clear witness. Verse 43 says "The sound of rejoicing could be heard far away".....

- In what ways could others see us in our rejoicing and what potential impact could that have on them?
- Where do we find it challenging to 'get on top of the wall' and worship in a way that everyone sees?
- What gave them 'great joy' in v 43? How is God giving you joy in life at the moment?

The worship united all the people, irrespective of their age, gender, social class, location.....

- How could we be more united in our worship?

In verse 30, the people prepared their hearts for worship having been purified.

- What barriers need removing in our hearts for us to worship Jesus?

Reflect on what might you need to confess to Jesus?

Witness (20-25 mins)

Pray for the 'Buildings to Serve' project - Dedicate them to God as we surrender our will and allow God to work through us and the buildings.

Pray for persecuted Christians across the world, many of whom are supported by 'Open Doors'.

As we have seen the completion of the walls by Nehemiah and the purchase of the Old Bank, perhaps we could pray for the rebuilding of Syria having watched this video.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/syria-190826/>

Think and pray for opportunities to get on top of the walls, worshipping as a witness to those around you.....Ask God to lead you to those people he wants you to share your faith with.