

**Topic** - Revive Our Hearts  
**Passage** - Nehemiah 8:1-18

**Date** - 5 July 2020  
**Speaker** - Josh Yeoh

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## WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Jesus Come
2. In Christ Alone

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## WORD [45 min]

### Spiritual Objectives

- RiverLifers to make the Word of God the ultimate authority and source in life
- RiverLifers to align their hearts according to what God says in His Word
- RiverLifers to find their joy and security in the revelation of God through His Word

### Sermon Summary

The pattern of spiritual revival in Nehemiah 8 shows the people of God rediscovering the Word and realigning their hearts resulting in them rejoicing in the Lord. If revival is a season of breakthroughs in word, deed, and power that ushers in a “new normal” of kingdom experience and fruitfulness, then God is using this season to prepare us to be his disciples in the new normal. A spiritual revival in our lives begins with us returning to God’s Word and aligning our lives to what it says.

### Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

The first part of the Nehemiah deals with the rebuilding of the physical walls of Jerusalem. The second part of Nehemiah deals with the rebuilding of the hearts of the returning exiles. In Chapter 8, Scripture shows us the pattern for revival – rediscovering the Word, realigning of Hearts, and rejoicing in the Lord. Revival means a season of breakthroughs in word, deed, and power **that ushers in a new normal** of kingdom experience and fruitfulness (*Longing for Revival* by James Choung & Ryan Pfeiffer, pg. 17).

#### 1. Rediscover the Word (vv. 1, 8)

- There was a strong desire to know the Word of God. The exiles asked Ezra to bring out the Book of the Law so that it can be read and proclaimed over the people.

- The Jews were Biblically illiterate having lived in Babylon their whole lives.
- Reflection: How is our attention towards the Word of the Lord? Do we filter what is happening in the world through the Word of God?
- Ezra standing on a platform – signifies the Word of God’s authority over the nation.
  - Reflection: Does the Word of God have authority over our lives? Do we elevate it in our lives?

## 2. Realign Our Hearts (v. 9)

- The returning exiles rediscovered and responded to the lost truths (vv. 14-17).
  - The people realised how far they have turned from the Lord upon hearing the Word of the Lord.
  - Therefore, they wept and repented.
  - They also started to obey the Word.
- Hearing the Word must lead to the realignment of our hearts (obedience).

## 3. Rejoice in the Lord (v. 10)

- Through the Word, the returning exiles rediscovered the revelation of who God was to them (a faithful covenantal God). Therefore, they had reason to rejoice.
- Their repentance, in turn, brought joy to the Lord.
- The joy of the Lord is your strength (Philippians 4:4-13). Our joy in life must come from our revelation of God!

## 4. Conclusion: Revive Our Hearts

- This is the pattern that needs to happen for God to revive our hearts.
- God wants us to have this pattern, so that our lives will be ready for a new normal that He is calling us to in this season, leading to the end of days.

### Discussion Questions

1. **What does it mean to realign our lives according to God’s Word? Practically, what does it mean for our various spheres of influence – as parents, as children, as a worker, as a supervisor, etc?**
  
2. **What does it mean for the Word of God to take preeminence in the various spheres of our lives?**
  
3. **Choose one of your spheres of influence (parent, supervisor, employee, child, neighbour, citizen of Singapore, etc.) and share with your group an area of your life in this sphere that needs to align to the Word of God. (eg. as an employee, I need to honour my supervisors more)?**

## WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray for the following pointers:

### 1. Response to Message

- That we as believers of Christ will commit ourselves to know the Word and to align our lives according to it.

### 2. COVID-19 – Phase 2

- Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this season.
- Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and internationally.
- Pray for the decrease of community cases as we continue on in Phase 2.

### 3. Elections

- Pray that as the country enters into a season of elections, that wise and godly leaders will be appointed.
- Pray that God will be sovereign over who gets elected into the various seats.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting [www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp](http://www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp).

"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;  
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."  
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

### Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

**1. PayNow**  
Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.  
Scan this QR code on the right.

**2. Interbank Transfer**  
RiverLife Church Bank Account:  
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0  
Bank Code: 7171  
Branch Code: 029

**SCAN ME**

### Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

### Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.