

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

Date - 5 July 2020
Speaker - Josh Yeoh

WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Jesus Come
2. In Christ Alone

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?**

Leaders’ Notes

The Word of God serves as a guide on how we can live according to God’s Ways (which is our fullest potential). By constantly reading and meditating on it, we compare our lives to what God expects of us. However, this is just the first step. We then need to repent of our ways (give up our former ways) and align our lives according to it (obeying) – to live out God’s Word in our various spheres of influence.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Nehemiah was moving from the building project itself to steps that will ensure that what which has been built will be protected and preserved.

2. **What does it mean for the Word of God to take preeminence in the various spheres of our lives?**

Leader’s Notes

This is a reflect question. Help your members to see how the Word of God can take its rightful place in the various spheres of influence that is relevant for your members (eg. studies, national service life, parenting, as an employee, as a supervisor, as a retiree, etc.)

One of the primary purposes of the Word of God is to instruct us on how to live. However, many times we don't give it the authority it deserves in the various areas of our lives because we depend too much on ourselves and our own wisdom. This question can help our members realise that they are not giving the Word of God deserved attention in the various spheres of their 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)?**

Leader's Notes

This is a respond question. While Question 2 is a generic question, Question 3 is specific for each member. The point of this question is to translate the concept of Question 1 into practical action steps one can take (obedience). If your group is too big, consider breaking up into smaller sub-groups for more intimate and effective sharing.

Closing

Revival always begins by living according to God's Word. This will produce repentance and alignment to God's Word. In today's culture, many Christians are satisfied to be hearers of the word. That's not enough. The ultimate goal of the Word is to help us becoming more like Christ. It must translate into a changed life. So, let us develop a habit of reading the Word, meditating on it and aligning our lives to it. It is only then that we can experience God's joy and live to our fullest potential!

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting 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.