



Talk it Over 1 Week of April 21, 2013

Talking through the message during the week and in the Life Group context helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These discussion points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

Opener

- Do you typically have a “glass half full”, or a “glass half empty” type of perspective? (Are you more pessimistically or optimistically inclined?) Give an example. Is this an area that you believe God wants to change?

The Joy of the Lord - Nehemiah 8:10 is one of the key verses of the entire book. Read this verse, as well as John 16:33, Psalm 27:1, and I Thessalonians 1:6-7.

- How/When have you experienced the Joy of the Lord in your life? How did it strengthen you? How did it change your outlook?
- Discuss how difficulty and joy are not mutually exclusive.
- Jesus taught us not to allow circumstances to cancel our joy. Share a testimony where you were able to apply this, or a struggle where you'd like to change this.

The Compassion of the Lord – Read Nehemiah 1:2-4

- **Read Matthew 14:14.** Jesus was moved with compassion. Compassion is an emotion leading to action. Recently, how has compassion stirred in you?
- **Read Nehemiah 2:17-18.** Nehemiah committed to rise up and rebuild. In what ways can you co-labor with God to bring recovery in your life?
- **Read Nehemiah 4:14.** Nehemiah gave the people a solution to fear. He told them that instead of being afraid they should remember the Lord, the great and awesome one. They needed to put their minds on the master. In what ways have you been able to face your fears by magnifying the Lord instead of your surroundings?

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