

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

Welcome: *What is something that you have worked hard to accomplish that you are proud of?*

Study Tip: The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are deeply connected with many key promises in scripture! Throughout this series, we would like to share some helpful references that can deepen your study:

2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 127:1-2 – In these two passages we find a “recipe for revival”. In 2 Chronicles, the Chronicler is recounting the dedication of the Solomonic temple while the Psalms passage reminds the reader that unless the Lord is in the rebuilding of Jerusalem, both physically and spiritually, then all is in vain. Keep in mind these important scenes as you watch the Israelites rededicate their own temple.

Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:39-43; Numbers 29:12-38; Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Zechariah 14:16-19 – At the forefront of Israel’s worship in the revival efforts was engaging in the feast of booths (Ezra 3:4; 6:19-22). The feast of booths was a reminder of Israel’s history of being protected in the wilderness on the run even when they did not have a temple or a homeland.

Nehemiah 9 – Nehemiah 9 is a helpful passage to read slowly with an [online cross-reference tool](#). If you are unfamiliar with the Old Testament, this would be a great passage to get acquainted with Israel’s story, a pattern of God’s grace and Israel’s rebellion. Would Israel follow through on **this** occasion?

Exodus 24:1-8; Deuteronomy 30-31; Joshua 24:1-28 – This is not the first time that the Israelites have committed to following the Law of the Lord. The question we are left with at the end of Nehemiah is whether **this** would be the occasion where Israel would follow through.

What’s Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Randy Odom, Pastor of the Legacy group of Senior Adults, led us into the fifth week of our series titled *The Revival That Almost Happened*. Pastor Randy pointed us to Nehemiah 8-12 to look to the moment in which Israel did everything necessary to inspire a revival! As you read this week’s selection of Nehemiah, remember the tension that the Old Testament creates. On one hand, God’s people are following the exact recipe to experience a revival. At the same time, we know Israel’s tragic history of consistent rebellion! As you seek to apply these scriptures, spend some time reflecting on your own life praising the Lord for giving us you the Holy Spirit.

“Once the ingredients of revival are all in, it’s what happens in the oven that matters most. The fire is what does the finishing. The fire of the Holy Spirit is what brings revival.” – Pastor Randy Odom

GROUP MEETING (60 – 90 minutes)

Worship (10 – 15 minutes)

Take a moment and prepare your hearts as your group enters the presence of God.

<p>Option 1: Worship Music Have someone share their favorite worship song. You can find it online, play it, and sing along! Have them explain why the lyrics mean so much to them!</p>	<p>Option 2: Meditation Lamentations 3:22-24 This powerful passage was written hopefully by the prophet Jeremiah who experienced the fall of Jerusalem. What stands out to you about this passage?</p>	<p>Option 3: Prophetic Hope Ezekiel 36-37; Jeremiah 31:31-34 In the midst of exile, Israel would've held onto prophecies such as these! Before you jump into the study, meditate on the different "hopes" that you have!</p>
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Word #1: Recipe for Revival Part 1 (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Text: Nehemiah 8 – 9 The last revival effort echoes the recipe of revival found in 2 Chronicles 7:14. In these passages, we watch as Israel (1) humble themselves, (2) confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors, and (3) seek God's face. **In your personal story of revival, which one of these 3 ingredients resonates with you the most? When have you found the most success in these areas and what situations make these actions difficult in your life?**

Prayer Tip: Pay attention to any ingredients of revival that need to be bathed in prayer.

Word #2: Recipe for Revival Part 2 (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: Nehemiah 10:28-39; 12:27-47 The final ingredient in the recipe of revival for Israel was (4) committing themselves to obedience. However, the Old Testament is a consistent story of God's people who had made this same commitment but continually fall short. We are left to wonder whether Nehemiah's generation would be the one to turn the tide of Israel's history. **What stands out to you about the tension between *committing* to living obediently and *practically living* a life of obedience? How can we step into a life that looks like 1 John 1:9 on a regular basis and how does this deepen your worship of Jesus Christ?**

Prayer Tip: Look for any ways the Spirit might be bringing people closer to him through the stories of revivals that almost happened.

Witness (20 – 25 minutes)

In light of this week's discussion, here are some different ways that your group can pray!

- Pray for any ingredients of revival that may be missing in your group.
- Pray that your group would continue to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the week.
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to contribute to future group meetings.
- Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!
- Pray for God's hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!

We invite your entire group to join the [House of Prayer](#) (Sunday 8/15 @ 6:30 PM on Zoom) and participate in our next churchwide [PrayFast](#) event (Tuesday 8/17 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Life Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

-Read Ahead: *Nehemiah 12-14* Everything that was built falls back apart. We see a chaotic Nehemiah screaming and attacking God's people. And then...the book ends. What can we learn from this disaster? From a revival that almost got off the ground, but couldn't create sustainable energy? We learn, more than anything, that the future everyone was waiting for was still in the future. Someday, God would bring Messiah. Someday the Spirit would come. Someday the covenant would be written on hearts, not stone.

-Suggested Resources:

[Tim Mackie's 4 Hour Lecture](#) – an AMAZING resource to check out!

[Ezra and Nehemiah \(Kidner\)](#) – Great accessible Commentary on Ezra and Nehemiah

[Ezra and Nehemiah for Everyone \(Ladouceur\)](#) – One Page fact sheet on book

-Life Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org

-Revival at 3Crosses: Encourage the group to pray alongside the church as we long to (1) see men, women and kids around our region turn to Christ, (2) see tons of new folks come and *gather* with us, (3) see people connect in community and start to *grow* in their faith, (4) see people activate their faith and start to *go* on mission with Jesus, and (5) prepare for a Holy Spirit inspired revival