



GROUP & FAMILY MATERIALS

WEEK 7

DO NOT GIVE UP MEETING TOGETHER, AS
SOME ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING, BUT
ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER...

HEBREWS 10:25 (NIV)

WEEK 7

THANKSGIVING

INTRODUCTION

Giving thanks is healthy. It causes us to hit the pause button on our busy lives and reflect on God's faithfulness and blessing. After working hard on rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, the people pause to celebrate God's provision through their hard work and commitment.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

NEHEMIAH 12:27-43 (NIV)

DEDICATION OF THE WALL OF JERUSALEM

²⁷ At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. ²⁸ The musicians also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites, ²⁹ from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the musicians had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. ³⁰ When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

³¹ I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate. ³² Hoshaiiah and half the leaders of Judah followed them, ³³ along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, ³⁵ as well as some priests with trumpets, and also Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zakkur, the son of Asaph, ³⁶ and his associates—Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah and Hanani—with musical instruments prescribed by David the man of God. Ezra the teacher of the Law led the procession. ³⁷ At the Fountain Gate they continued directly up the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the wall and passed above the site of David's palace to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸ *The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of the wall, together with half the people—past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, ³⁹ over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped.*

⁴⁰ *The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, ⁴¹ as well as the priests—Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah and Hananiah with their trumpets—⁴² and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam and Ezer. The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah. ⁴³ And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.*

PERSONAL READING & OBSERVATIONS

NEHEMIAH 12:27-43

Why do you think having a celebration of the newly rebuilt wall of Jerusalem was important?

How did the people of Judah dedicate the wall of Jerusalem? (Nehemiah 12:27)

Nehemiah, the leaders of Judah, some musicians, two choirs and the people all got up on top of the wall to celebrate. Ezra led one half of the group counterclockwise while Nehemiah led the other half of the group clockwise. They both met up between the Water Gate (Nehemiah 12:37) and the Guard Gate (Nehemiah 12:39). After walking around the rebuilt wall of Jerusalem, where did the two choirs and the people go? (Nehemiah 12:40)

What was a sign that this celebration service was enthusiastic and loud? (Nehemiah 12:43)

 WATCH JEFF'S WEEK 7 VIDEO:
THANKSGIVING

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR GROUPS

What was surprising or interesting to you from this passage in Nehemiah?

Describe a time when you were part of a large group that was celebrating and thankful. What did it look and sound like?

Why is celebration and thanksgiving an important part of significant accomplishments?

What part of our weekend message encouraged or challenged you and why?

How has our Rise Up campaign and the Nehemiah series increased your gratitude to the Lord?

PRAYER

Take time to thank God for all of His gifts and provisions in your life. This should take you a long time. Nothing is too small or insignificant when it comes to expressing gratitude to God.

COMPASSKIDS CORNER

A FAMILY ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION GUIDE



Get a sheet of paper and write down the letters of the alphabet. Have your child come up with something they are thankful for that starts with each of the letters.



Nehemiah 12:27-43



There was a great celebration on the day they dedicated the newly rebuilt wall around Jerusalem. This celebration was filled with music, dancing, and great joy! It is always important to take time to celebrate accomplishments. When people graduate from school, get a promotion at work, win a game in sports or some other competition, we take time to celebrate. Nehemiah made sure the people of Jerusalem did not just go back to their daily activities without first celebrating what was accomplished and showing their thanks to God for protecting them and providing all they needed. This week our family is going to take time to celebrate all the things we are thankful for. And as you can see (point to the piece of paper) there are many things we should thank God for.



- Why do you think it was important to celebrate the rebuilt wall of Jerusalem?
- What are some things that your family has celebrated? What was one of your favorite celebrations? Why?
- Do you think it was important to have music at the celebration? Why?

- What is some of your favorite music? Are there any songs at church that you like singing?
- Do you think our church will have a special dedication service after they finish building the new church building for our South Naperville Campus?
- What do you think it is like to celebrate a new church opening in another country?



Let's pray and thank God for all that we learned about the people of Jerusalem who rebuilt the wall and for all that we learned about our family. Let's also pray for how we are going to be involved in helping build the new South Naperville building and helping people Here, Near & Far.