

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Standing Strong

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: God of Second, Third Chances

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Memory Verse: Nehemiah 9:10 NIV

You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day.

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word to lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** God is gracious to restore and redeem when you turn back to Him.

## Read Nehemiah 12:27-47

1. Before the celebration began, the people were purified (v 30). When you come to worship on a Sunday, do you do anything to prepare your heart and mind? What would it look like for you to spiritually prepare yourself for worship? How do you think this could change your worship experience?
2. When talking about David, he is referred to as the man of God, and Ezra is described as the Teacher of the Law (v 36). How do you think those who know you best would describe you in 10 words or less? How would you like to be described or remembered? What can you do now to strive towards that legacy?
3. The people rejoiced "because God had given them great joy" (v 43). Why is it significant that the source of their joy was God's work and not their own accomplishments? How have you experienced joy that comes from recognizing God's work in your life? Share about a time when you have experienced joy from the Lord.



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4. The Levites were given specific responsibilities to care for the temple and lead worship (v 44–47). What gifts or responsibilities has God entrusted to you that could help build up your church or community? What barriers, both internal and external, can keep you from serving?

## Read Nehemiah 13

5. The Temple was a good thing, and Nehemiah discovered that Eliashib had allowed Tobiah to use a room in the temple for unintended purposes (v 4-9). What are some good things (like work, relationships, hobbies) that can become compromised when we use them in ways God didn't intend? How can you tell when a good thing is starting to take the wrong place in your life or draw you away from God's purpose?
6. Nehemiah confronted the people for working and conducting business on the Sabbath (v 15-22). Why do you think the Sabbath was so important to God's covenant with His people? How does setting aside time to rest and worship reflect your trust in God? What changes could you make to protect time for rest and spiritual renewal?
7. Nehemiah rebuked the people for marrying those from other nations who did not follow God (v 23-29). Why was intermarriage with foreign nations a threat to their faithfulness to God? Are there influences in your life that pull you away from full devotion to God? How can you strengthen your spiritual boundaries to remain faithful to God?
8. Nehemiah took bold action to cleanse the temple and call the people back to faithfulness (v 8-9, 30). What areas of your spiritual life need to be "cleansed" or renewed? How can you invite God to restore your heart and mind to greater faithfulness? What step can you take this week to experience spiritual renewal?

Reach out to anyone who couldn't participate with your Small Group and make a personal connection with them this coming week (call, text, email, or personal face-to-face conversation). Let them know they were missed, and you look forward to seeing them next time.



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