

Compass



BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
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NEHEMIAH 8:9-12 (NIV)

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." ¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JOYFUL GENEROSITY?

Have you heard of the trend where patrons at a restaurant, as they go through the drive-through, pay for the person behind them in line without even knowing that person? If that sounds crazy, what often happens next, is the person who had their order paid for, in turn, then pays for the person in line behind them. Imagine perfect strangers paying the price for other people. Often, generosity grows when people feel thankful for what they have received.

In Nehemiah 8:9-12, the Jewish exiles also took care of those around them because they were grateful that God had taken care of them. After returning to Jerusalem, they gathered, prayed, and listened to God's Word. After hearing Ezra read the Law of Moses, they became overwhelmed as they reflected on their own disobedience, which was the reason for their suffering.

What happened next was amazing. Nehemiah encouraged them not to wallow but rather to celebrate how God had allowed them to return and had restored them. Their joy led them to respond with gratitude. The leaders commanded that they care for those who had nothing prepared (v.10). This ought to challenge our understanding of giving. When we give as God has blessed us, rather than out of obligation or custom, others can experience His goodness too.

HOW DOES GOD WANT ME TO USE MY BLESSINGS TO BLESS OTHERS?

Nehemiah's call to action in verse 12 was to not only celebrate but also to share with others. What a great reminder, God blesses us not just for ourselves but for others, including people we never get to meet.

The Joy
of the Lord
is your
strength

Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR

MAY 31, 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL TITLE

PROVOKE ONE
ANOTHER!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:18–20;
Hebrews 10:22–25

MAIN THOUGHT

Let us hold fast the
profession of our faith
without wavering;
(for he is faithful that
promised;)
Hebrews 10:23, KJV

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, keep me mindful
that every blessing comes
from You. Inspire me to
live with open hands and
share Your goodness with
those around me. In
Jesus' name, Amen.