

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**August 6, 2023**

**Festival of Booths**

**Nehemiah 8:13-18**

**Instructor: Ralph Gordon**

# Questions for Us Today

August 6, 2023

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Do you celebrate God's goodness to you?

If so, how?

If not, why not?

# Sunday School Lesson Objective

August 6, 2023

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To understand why and how Nehemiah (and Ezra) led the people to celebrate God's goodness.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1**

**August 6, 2023**

**1. Bibliography**

**2. Points of Information: Nehemiah**

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2**

**August 6, 2023**

**3. Lesson Context**

**4. Lesson Text**

**5. Remember These Things**

# Points of Information – Nehemiah

Nehemiah likely wrote most (if not all) of the Book named after him, possibly with editing help from Ezra, the priest and scribe.

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God used Nehemiah, who became the Governor of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 10:1), to lead spiritual awakenings among His people and to refortify the Holy City of Jerusalem.

## Points of Information – Nehemiah

Although he was born in Babylonian exile, Nehemiah wanted to go to Jerusalem and to be with his own people.

## Points of Information – Nehemiah

Nehemiah was deeply saddened to find that although some of his people – the remnant – had returned from exile to Jerusalem, the walls (of protection) and gates of the Holy City had not yet been repaired and rebuilt. He then offered a fervent prayer to the Lord, on behalf of his people. Nehemiah 1:5-11.



# Points of Information – Nehemiah

As a cupbearer for the Persian king, Nehemiah's job had been to taste the king's wine and food first, to ensure that they were safe for the king to consume.

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Nehemiah took a great risk by appearing to be sad in front of the king. Nehemiah 2:1-3. By tradition, this could have been punishable by death. However, Nehemiah prayed first; then, he requested that King Artaxerxes allow him to go to Jerusalem and help his own people. Verses 4-8.

## Points of Information – Nehemiah

In this Book of the Bible, Nehemiah documents a lot about the people: Nehemiah 7:6-73 (those who left captivity); 10:1-27 (those who were sealed); 11:4-19 (those who dwelled in the Holy City); 11:20-36 ("the rest of the people" or "the residue"); 12:1-26 (a listing of priests and Levites); 12:31-36, 41,42 (princes, priests and others).

# **Festival of Booths**

## **Lesson Context - 1**

**In the first segment of Verses (1-12) in this eighth Chapter of Nehemiah, he, Ezra and others stood before the people while Ezra read from the Law of Moses.**

# Festival of Booths

## Lesson Context - 2

**In a model for our congregational worship today, when Ezra opened God's Holy Word to read it, the people stood. Nehemiah 8:5.**

# Festival of Booths

## Lesson Context - 3

**Then, the congregation followed their leadership and moved into the Festival of Booths.**

# **Festival of Booths**

**Text – UMI Outline #1**

**Nehemiah 8:13-16**

**Festival of Booths Reinstated**

## **Nehemiah 8:13 (NLT)**

**On October 9 the family leaders of all the people, together with the priests and Levites, met with Ezra the scribe to go over the Law in greater detail.**

## **Nehemiah 8:14**

**As they studied the Law, they discovered that the LORD had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should live in shelters during the festival to be held that month.**



## Nehemiah 8:15

He had said that a proclamation should be made throughout their towns and in Jerusalem, telling the people to go to the hills to get branches from olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees. They were to use these branches to make shelters in which they would live during the festival, as prescribed in the Law.

## Nehemiah 8:16

**So the people went out and cut branches and used them to build shelters on the roofs of their houses, in their courtyards, in the courtyards of God's Temple, or in the squares just inside the Water Gate and the Ephraim Gate.**

# **Festival of Booths**

**Text – UMI Outline #2**

**Nehemiah 8:17-18**

**Festival of Booths Marks Great  
Celebration**

## **Nehemiah 8:17**

**So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters during the festival, and they were all filled with great joy! The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun.**

## **Nehemiah 8:18**

**Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God on each of the seven days of the festival. Then on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, as was required by law.**

**Remember these things:**

**We should strive to maintain traditions to honor the Lord.**

**We should diligently study God's Holy Word, to understand what He requires of us – and then do it!**

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