

# NEHEMIAH

BUILDING  
MINISTRY  
TOGETHER

## Lesson 11: Nehemiah 8:13-18 Building Ministry Through Worship Part II

### Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

Obedience is more than just doing what you're told. An obedient life is the outpouring of a heart that is changed! Obeying God's Word is an expression of worship. We must learn what is right, choose to follow, and then follow through with what God's Word says is true. When we obey God our lives are filled with joy, because God is providing, protecting and filling us in a way that nothing on this earth can. That is something to celebrate!

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

### Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

**Activity 1: Booth Builders** The Jews celebrated a "feast of booths" to help them remember God's provision for them during the time when God brought them out of Egypt. God provided for them, protected them, and journeyed along with them as a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). They were fully dependent upon the Lord for food, clothing, shelter, and life!

Build booths (or forts) with cardboard boxes, blankets, or chairs. Pretend like you are the Israelites out of Egypt. Gather manna in the morning and prepare your bread. Think about what it would be like to live outdoors all the time without all of the wonderful luxuries of your homes. Think about how amazing it was that the people's shoes never wore out in 40 years of walking, and they never had to hunt for food or make clothing! God provided EVERYTHING!



**Activity 2: Feast!** In response to remembering God's great provision the people worshipped God with a feast! Prepare a feast to share with your group. Include grapes, cheese squares, crackers, or whatever you like to feast with. As you are feasting talk about God's glorious provision for you.

Obeying God may be difficult, but it brings forth delight!

### Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have children stand to honor the reading of God's Word. Pray and thank God for giving us His Word. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

**Read Nehemiah 8:12-18 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available**

Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law. 14They found written in the law how the LORD had commanded through Moses that the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month. 15So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written." 16So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. 17The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day And there was great rejoicing. 18He read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.

**Discuss with the children what the verses mean.** Last week we saw the people stand for over 6 hours to listen to God's Word, this week we see that they wanted to hear more! They wanted to understand God's Word in a way that they could teach others. **What feast was coming up?** (*the feast of booths*). **What did they find out that they needed to do?** (*go get branches and make booths or shelters*). **Did they obey?** (*yes!*). **How did the people feel after following God's Word?** (*they were delighted - there was great rejoicing*)

When the people understood God's Word they responded in obedience and then great rejoicing. God's design is always the best.

**Let's memorize this week's verse:**

**"How blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
Who walk in the law of the LORD."  
Psalm 119:1**

**Coloring Sheet** 10 Min

Pass out the memory verse coloring sheets and have children color them. As you color repeat the verse several times to help the words sink in!

**Closing/Clean up** 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Praise God for a wonderful group of young people!



**HOW BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE  
WAY IS BLAMELESS, WHO WALK  
IN THE LAW OF THE LORD.**

**PSALM 119:1**