

Celebration
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-12

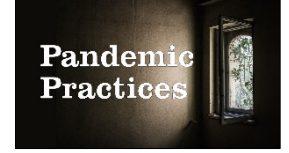
Emily Mitchell
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NOTES

Celebration
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-12

Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- Do you enjoy God? What does that enjoyment look and feel like?
- Why do you think human beings often find celebration so difficult?
- How might celebration of God and appreciation of the gifts of God, especially as manifested in our enjoyment of “the good things of the earth” (such as good food and drink), help keep us from taking ourselves—and even our problems—too seriously?
- In what ways can celebration as a communal pandemic practice strengthen us during times when the hardships of life leach the joy from our spirit?
- Reread Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-12. When is the admonishment “Don’t be sad!” (verse 11) helpful? When you or others are suffering, when is it appropriate to “weep with those who weep” and when should our attitude be “rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice”?
- *Intergenerational Exercise:* Two postures of worship are shown in verse 6: raising our hands to God and bowing down to God. Try praying in both postures. Begin standing with your hands raised as high as you would like. Then, when you feel ready, kneel and bow your head to the ground as you are able. What feelings are evoked by each position? Did one or the other feel more natural to you?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.