

Create



✓ **Prepare in Advance**

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ **Breath of God**

Ask a volunteer to read Nehemiah 8:1-10 out loud. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In Nehemiah 8:1-10, Nehemiah reads the words of the law to the people, and they are transformed by the proclamation. They find themselves lacking when they see how far they have strayed from the law; yet, Nehemiah's words remind them that God is a place of safety from which we draw strength to have joy instead of mourning, hope instead of fear, redemption instead of punishment.

Ask: How does God speak to people today?

Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach and choose a partner or group that has picked the opposite approach. Spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ **Create- Writing**

Invite writers to reflect on Nehemiah 8:1-10 and create a proclamation for people today. Ask the participants to identify the group – youth group, school group, Christians, adults, children, or even all people - and write a proclamation to this group in the form of an essay, speech, or poem. Include a message of a change that reminds the group what God expects of them and a message of hope that shows that all people, no matter what are safe with God.

✓ **Create – Visual**

Invite writers to reflect on Nehemiah 8:1-10 and create a proclamation for people today. Ask the

participants to identify the group – youth group, school group, Christians, adults, children, or even all people - and make a visual example of a proclamation to this group. Include a message of a change that reminds the group what God expects of them and a message of hope that shows that all people, no matter what are safe with God.

✓ **Share**

Call the group together. Allow participants to share their creations with the large group.

Ask: What words about God does our group need to hear?

Close with prayer.

(After the session, consider sharing the books with the children's leaders in the church or find a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/ frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place.).

By Noelle Owen

Church Websites

Get FaithLab to develop your new church website and help support FaithElement.

faithlab.com

faithlab