

Monday, September 14, 2026
Graham Kern

Essential Truth: *Renewal begins when God's people gather with hunger to hear God's Word.*

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

Observations:

- The people were settled and life was somewhat normal once more.
- The people all gathered together as one in a common place and asked for the Word of God to be read.
- An assembly (church) of men and women and others who could understand (children) gathered to hear God's Word read.
- This assembly listened attentively for a long time as the priest (pastor) read the Word of God.

Application:

Life often gets in the way of reading and studying God's Word. So we need to develop a habit of doing so, even when life is not normal. So I believe it is important for us as disciples of Jesus to come together in a common place to read and study God's Word. This is most often at a Sunday worship service, but it could also happen in a small group. And it's important that the whole family - mom, dad & kids or whatever your family looks like today - is part of that worship time. How long should this be? That depends on the day. It might be 4-6 hours, but it could turn out to be only 4-6 minutes. We have God's Word readily available. Let's open it up and read it.

Prayer:

O God, we ask that our Pastor would be faithful in reading your Word to us, your disciples. It is living and active, so it can guide us today and every day as we work, play and live together in community and as families. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

