

# NEHEMIAH

## Chapter 8 - 3/31/19

### OVERVIEW

How many of you wore a WWJD bracelet at some point in your life? If not, you probably knew someone who did. Those “What Would Jesus Do” bracelets are a version of the question we ask a lot here at Blue Ridge – “What does God have to say about it?” Often, how we feel can control our thoughts and dictate our choices, instead of what we read in scripture leading us to obedience. What if our ownership in helping people follow Jesus was based on His word, instead of how we feel about it?

Scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV), Deuteronomy 28:1-6 (NIV), Deuteronomy 28:15-22 (NIV), Nehemiah 8:9-11 (ESV)

### APPLICATION

1. Share a time in your life where you allowed your emotions to get out of hand (This could be a positive or a negative example). Anything you might change about that response?
2. This section of Nehemiah describes the people’s response to the law—mourning and sorrow—and how God wanted them to respond—with celebration and joy. Imagine yourself in the same situation: would you have difficulty obeying God’s direction? In other words, could you possibly celebrate, even when you didn’t feel like it?
3. Owners place what they feel under submission to what God says. What might happen in your life and in your walk with God if you allowed your feelings—no matter how strong they are—to be submitted to what God says?
4. In what area of your life do you need to submit to what God says instead of your feelings?
5. Jeremy gave us one way to get our emotions submitted to what God says to do: following God in community. Read Nehemiah 8:9-11. How did the community help the individuals follow God instead of following their emotions? How has community helped you?

Homework: This week’s homework is a little unique: pay attention to how you feel about what God wants you to do. How do your feelings help you obey or not? Write down what you observe.