

**Nehemiah:  
A New Beginning**

Nehemiah 8

New beginnings take root in us.

Put the truth of the Bible into your life.

**Considerations for the week**

**Inclusion, v. 2.** All who were able were included. Why?

**Praise, v. 5-6.** Notice that the assembly began in praise to God. Why is it good to begin by worshipping God?

**Instruction, v. 7-8.** Ezra read to the people from the Book of the Law. He and the Levites taught them, helping them to understand. Why did they need this, and how was it important?

**Reaction, v. 9-10.** Explain the people's sorrow at the reading of scripture, including how it related to their prior spiritual condition. Tell about a time when you experienced similar feelings.

**Understanding, v. 12.** What role does understanding play in our reaction to the Word of God? How does our understanding of scripture affect spiritual renewal?

**Renewal, v. 13-17.** Notice the actions that resulted from the people's understanding. Consider the part our actions can play in completion of our renewal.

**Strength.** Scripture was read communally. They listened together as they turned to God together. Explore the inter-relationship of repentance & renewal on the individual level and on the corporate level. Consider how they were strengthened in their time and how it happens in ours.

**Joy.** Each day this week, take a moment to ponder that the joy of the Lord is your strength.

*Please use these considerations for personal reflection, small group discussions, and with friends and family.*

**And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."**

*– Nehemiah 8:9-10, ESV*



Scripture read today during worship:

[Psalm 119:105-106](#)

[Zephaniah 3:14-17](#)

[Proverbs 3:5-10](#)

**Prayer today**

Members will be praying for us during the service today and also during the week. Please email us at [prayer@rtbchurch.org](mailto:prayer@rtbchurch.org) to let us know how we may pray for you.

**Rice Temple Baptist Church**

## Today's order of service

Prelude, *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

Welcome

Call to worship

Hymn, *Everyday*

Confession and assurance

Hymn

*Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble?*

Hymn, *Every Promise of Your Word*

Offertory

Reading

Hymn, *Word of God, Speak*

Message

Hymn of response, *Ancient Words*

Benediction

Postlude, *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story*

## Weekly events

Today after benediction, Cookies & Coffee, in parlor

Young adults fellowship, Monday at 6:45pm. Dinner and discussion for those in college or starting careers

Mom's Day Out, Tuesday and Friday, 9am – 2pm  
pre-registration required

Women's Bible study, Tues. at 10 am or Thurs. at 7 pm

Wednesday

Kids' Music Class, 5-6 pm

Dinner served 5:30-6:30 pm. Menu: teriyaki

chicken, rice, veggies, salad, banana pudding

Prayer, 6:30 pm in the prayer room

BLAST! Children's Bible study and fun, 5:30 pm

Ladies' international Bible class (Zoom), 6:45 pm

Sermon discussion on Zoom, 7 pm

Choir rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Joy Program, Thursday, 9am-noon, conversational  
English classes, Bible study, crafts, and handbells

Men's Bible study, Thursday, 7 pm

Young internationals Bible study, Saturday at 7 pm

Sunday morning

Adult Bible study, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Children's Church at sermon time

### The church office has information on events.

Phone: 713.559.6875 Email: [office@rtbchurch.org](mailto:office@rtbchurch.org)

The office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am-4pm

**Got the app?** You can download our free mobile app by searching for "RTBC" in the Apple or Android store.

Our website is at <https://rtbc.faith>

### Creativity for Christmas season

If you paint, sculpt, write, dance, sew, act or more – please consider sharing your artistry with us for Christmas. Also, culinary fun for Cookies & Coffee after worship. Please contact the church office for details.

**Our Christmas Cantata** will be Sunday, December 15. If you'd like to sing with the choir or play in the orchestra, please contact the office.

rtbc  
online giving

