

SEASON 28
GODReads!

MONTH 6
One for the Books

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DESSERT IDEA:
A treat inspired by your favorite book

CANDY IDEA:
Book Worms - Gummy Worms

ICE BREAKER:

Name That Story Book
Describe a popular book without giving the name away. Have guests try to guess the book name based on your clues.

Name That Story Book Character
Hand out paper and pens. Show pictures of favorite story book characters and have each guest write down their answers. Whoever has the most right answers wins.

**RESOURCES
& LINKS:**



SERVING • CONNECTING • SHARING

1. FUN: THE PROGRAM

Choose from one of the following or create your own.

1. Hold a book exchange/book swap. **Or** discuss your favorite books and why. **Or** assign a book at the beginning of the season (simple and affordable) and ask your guests to read the book to discuss at this meeting. **Or** discuss some of your favorite children's books. Serve snacks inspired by those books.
2. Invite a local author to share about a book she has written. **Or** invite an avid reader to share some of her favorite book suggestions.
3. Create a bookmark with your favorite Bible verse on it.

Choose from one or more of these ideas for conversation starters:

- What types of books do you read?
- What are books on your shelf at home that you keep and won't lend out?
- What makes a book a classic?
- What book do you want made into a movie? Any movie better than the book?
- What makes a book come alive?

DEEPER DISCUSSION

There are so many benefits to reading. Studies suggest that reading reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, can help with depression and anxiety and can help us sleep better. Children who read or are read to have increased vocabulary, as well as better thinking, problem solving and life skills.

What book(s) have you read that made you cry? What book(s) have you read that made you laugh out loud?

Has a book ever made you want to completely change the direction of your life? In this month's Scripture we will hear more about the only book with the power to make an entire nation turn away from their sin and back to God.

2. FAITHFULNESS:

Turning Back To God

This month's Scripture is about Ezra reading the law and is found in the Old Testament in Nehemiah 8.

Nehemiah 8:10

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Just as Jeremiah had predicted, Babylon captured God's people, the Israelites, and held them for seventy years. When Persia took over Babylon, God softened the Persian king's heart to the Jewish people and he allowed them to return to the city of Jerusalem to rebuild.

Today's Scripture comes from the first public reading of God's Word to His people in more than 70 years. Ezra, a priest, and Nehemiah, an Israelite official, gathered the men, women and children old enough to understand to hear Ezra read the Word of God aloud. The Levites, more priests, are there to help when they get to any parts that the people don't understand.

The people stood as God's Word was being read from day break to noon, a period of at least six hours. The people wept when they heard the words of the law because they were grieved by the conviction of their sin. Nehemiah says to them the words above. He reminds them that this is a reason to celebrate. While God does punish sin, He also blesses obedience. Their nation had not been destroyed in spite of their sin. Instead, by God's grace, they were given a new beginning. Their city, temple and walls had been rebuilt, they re-established the Feast of Booths and they had God's Word and were recommitting their lives to Him.

The people of Israel had forgotten God's Word and abandoned following Him for years. They grieved realizing there was a gap between what and who the Word said they should be and what and who they actually were. Even though they sinned and rebelled, God was giving them the opportunity to repent, turn back, and walk on a fresh new walk with Him.

The Word of God still works in us today as it did in the day of Nehemiah. It reveals gaps in our lives and brings up feelings of grief over our sin. Godly grief that leads to repentance is beautiful because it brings about a renewed relationship with God. This relationship is available to anyone and everyone who receives it. God wants us to experience the joy that can only come from knowing Him deeply and walking with Him daily because that joy truly is our strength.

SWEET EXTRA

Despite opposition, It took Nehemiah and the Israelite people just 52 days to complete the work of rebuilding Jerusalem's walls.

3. CLOSING SCRIPT:

Read Your Bible, Girl!

This devotion is a true story featuring real people and comes from one or more of God's 66 books of the Bible. While it's fun to have fellowship with other ladies and to learn new things, nothing has ever changed my life like God's Word.

The Holy Bible tells us that while we were all sinners, Christ died for us. Through the cross of Jesus, God reconciles us to Himself and restores us to how we were meant to be. This gift of redemption promises eternal life and transforms us from the inside-out. But like all gifts, it must be accepted. If you have not accepted this gift from God, please contact me. I'd love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have.

I encourage you to follow along with this month's Scripture Writing, and read the story for yourself. Ask God what He would like to show you in His life-changing Word.

SCRIPTURE WRITING:

NEHEMIAH



Sweet Scripture Writing

Want to read Nehemiah's story for yourself? Join us in reading and writing God's Word down every day, meditating on it, and writing it on your heart. Look up, read and write each verse and consider if God is calling you to commit to Him in some area of your life.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 | Nehemiah 8:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16 | Nehemiah 8:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2 | Nehemiah 8:2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17 | Nehemiah 8:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3 | Nehemiah 8:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18 | Nehemiah 8:19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4 | Nehemiah 8:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19 | 1 John 1:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5 | Nehemiah 8:5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20 | Psalms 86:15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6 | Nehemiah 8:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21 | Psalms 94:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7 | Nehemiah 8:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22 | Matthew 18:11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8 | Nehemiah 8:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23 | Luke 15:8-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9 | Nehemiah 8:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24 | Lamentations 3:22-23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10 | Nehemiah 8:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25 | Exodus 34:6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11 | Nehemiah 8:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26 | Exodus 34:7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12 | Nehemiah 8:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27 | Hebrews 13:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13 | Nehemiah 8:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28 | 2 Timothy 2:11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14 | Nehemiah 8:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29 | Psalms 36:5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15 | Nehemiah 8:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30 | Micah 7:18-20 |