

4th week of September  
[Prepare for True Worship](#)

- **Text:** Nehemiah 12:27~30 (September 26)
- **Bottom line:** Praise God, remembering that it is God who starts and finishes everything.

≡ 1. Praise

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≡ 2. Prayer

Thank you, God, for Your unwavering care for us. Please shine on our family with your love like the sunshine, so that we can experience healing and restoration.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Nehemiah 12:27~30 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

27 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. 28 And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; 29 also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. 30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

<NASB>

<sup>27</sup> Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they could celebrate the dedication with joy, with songs of thanksgiving and with songs *to the accompaniment* of cymbals, harps, and lyres. <sup>28</sup> So the sons of the singers were assembled from the territory around Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites, <sup>29</sup> from Beth-gilgal and from *their* fields in Geba and Azmaveth, because the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> The priests and the Levites purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

## Understanding Text

The whole process leading up to the completion of the walls of Jerusalem was by God's grace. Nehemiah prepared a ceremony to dedicate the wall to God. Prior to the consecration, Nehemiah gathered the Levites to Jerusalem to serve as a choir, purified the priests and Levites, and prepared for the people to praise and glorify God.

### Understanding the text for leaders

After the walls of Jerusalem were completed, Nehemiah used his wisdom to ensure that the people could live comfortably in the city. This is because people were reluctant to live in a castle that had not yet been maintained. Nehemiah first sent the leaders of the people to live in the city of Jerusalem, and then he chose lots for each family from among the people, and 1/10 of them lived in the city. He also blessed and encouraged those who wanted to live in the city voluntarily (11:1~2). The reason Nehemiah did this was because he thought that if people lived in Jerusalem, it would be full of life and many people would come to the temple. He was looking at the first list of returnees and visualizing a plan for the relocation of the inhabitants (7:5). He also encouraged the priests and Levites who served in the temple to distinguish between tithes and offerings, which are the duties of the people, so that they could have a stable life (10:32, 36~37, 39). After taking care of the temple and making all the arrangements for living in the city of Jerusalem, Nehemiah finally held the "dedication ceremony of the wall." The dedication ceremony is a ceremony to dedicate the wall to God, confessing that it was God who initiated the construction of the walls of Jerusalem and it was God who led them to finish. The Levites who could play musical instruments and the priests who served the service prepared the ceremony. Nehemiah prepared for the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem to be a worship service that glorified God alone, not to praise or celebrate anyone's accomplishments.

## 4. Sharing

1) Why did Nehemiah gather the Levites before the ceremony of dedicating the walls of Jerusalem to God? (verse 27).

### Upper Grades

What did Nehemiah prepare for the dedication after completing the construction of the walls of Jerusalem? (verse 27).

### Lower Grades

What did Nehemiah gather the Levites to sing and play musical instruments in preparation for what? (verse 27).

### Question Guide

After completing the construction of the wall in 52 days and completing all the preparations, Nehemiah is finally about to dedicate the wall. Watch as Nehemiah prepares for the dedication ceremony not to boast of his own accomplishments, but only to glorify God.

### □ Commentary for Leaders

After the walls of Jerusalem were finished, Nehemiah took all administrative measures to ensure that the people could live in the city. Then I wanted to have a dedication ceremony to thank God for guiding everything from the beginning to the end of the wall. He called the Levites together to play musical instruments and have a joyful worship service. Despite the threat and intimidation of the adversary and the difficult completion of the wall, he does not praise himself or give credit or credit to any particular person, but prepares God alone to be fully glorified.

2) What can I do to prepare myself and my family to worship God in a way that focuses on Him completely?

#### ■ Upper Grades

What do I need to do to prepare for Sunday worship and home worship?

#### ■ Lower Grades

What do I need to prepare for Sunday worship on Saturday?

### □ Question Guide

Share what you need to do to fully worship God. I hope you will remember that through this preparation and devotion, worship time will be enriched and you will be able to focus on God alone.

### □ Commentary for Leaders

Nehemiah prepared the Levites and priests for the dedication of the wall to be a time of full worship of God and rejoicing in God. I mobilized all the instruments I was going to play for the dedication ceremony, purified my body and mind before God, and made all the preparations for a joyful worship. The protagonist of the dedication was neither Nehemiah nor the people. It was only God. Worship that is prepared to focus only on God is achieved through the preparation and efforts of many people. Think specifically about how you can prepare to perfect the worship of our church and the worship of our homes.

### ≡ 5. Be grateful

Be grateful that you can praise and worship God to your heart's content.

### ≡ 6. Prayer

God, when we have achieved or achieved something, we confess that it is all your works, and that we will only exalt you .

- End the family worship service with the "Prayer the Lord Taught You."

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