

2. Turn to Nehemiah 8:1-12. In this passage, Ezra the priest read the Word of God aloud in the Temple for the first time since Nehemiah had finished rebuilding the walls and doors of the city. Read it aloud together and answer the following questions.

a. Have a few members of the group recap the story using their own words.

b. What does this tell us about God? People? You?

c. Many Israelites were grieving heavily in this story despite the walls being rebuilt. They had suffered and experienced great loss. In the midst of this hardship, the priests encouraged them to enjoy life as much as possible and seek the joy of the Lord (see verses 9-10). What insight does this provide for our situation today?

3. Most of us are feeling a lot of uncertainty, worry, and anxiety these days. Because of that, let's read a bit on the topic of biblical joy. Read each of these verses and discuss them one at a time. Share what aspects of each verse stood out to you, why it hit home, and what it teaches us about finding joy in the Lord at all times.

a. Psalm 27:6.

e. Habakkuk 3:17-19.

b. Psalm 84:2.

f. Philippians 4:1.

c. Isaiah 51:3.

g. Hebrews 12:1-2.

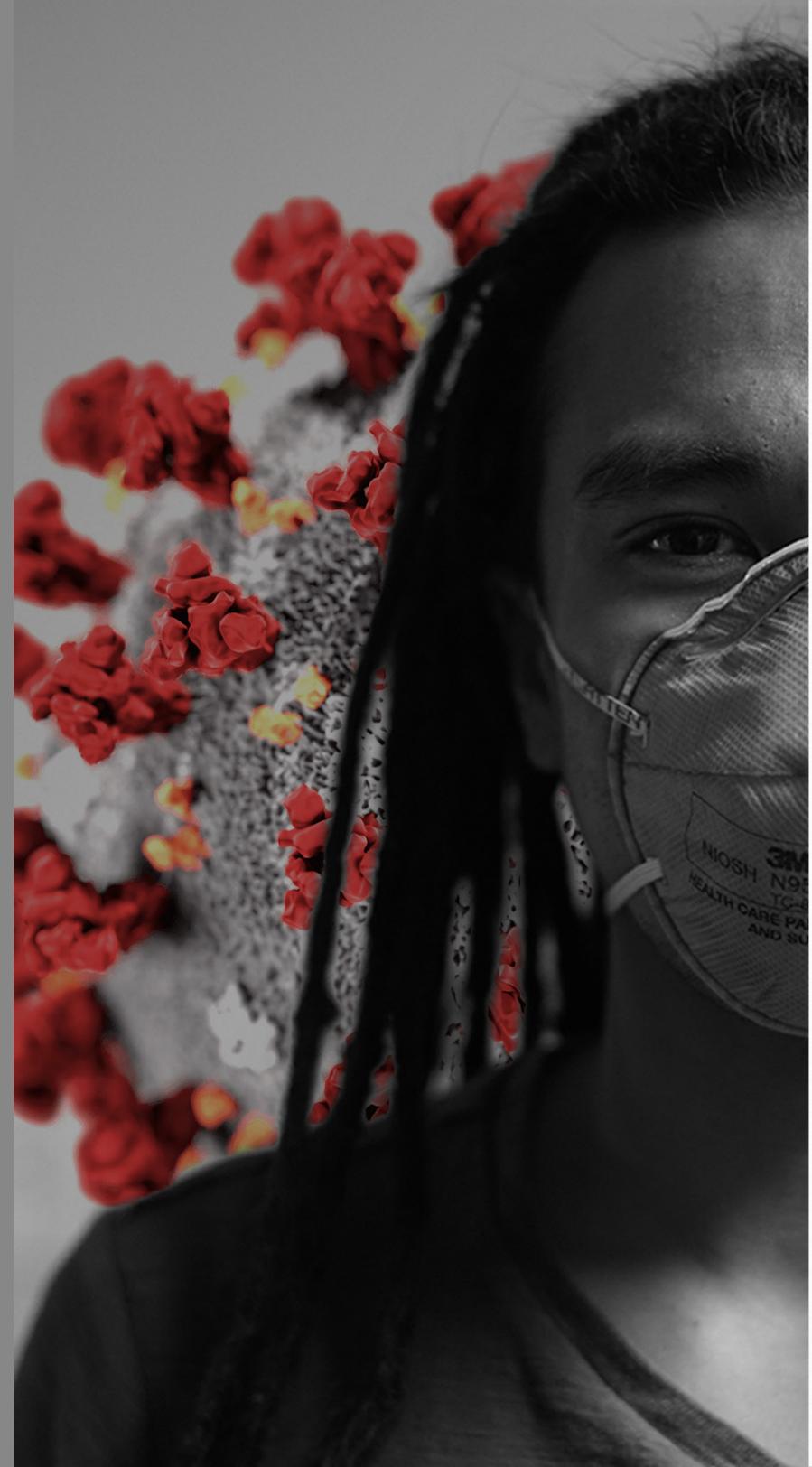
d. Jeremiah 15:16.

h. 1st Peter 1:3-9.

Personal reflection and application.

1. Have everyone share one thing someone else said that stood out to them from this discussion.

2. Take prayer requests. Try to take no more than 60 seconds per person to share since we will do it all together.



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"A Glimpse into Life Inside the Ark"
Pastor Kyle Bonenberger

» **Lessons on how to cope with COVID-19.**

| Genesis 6:9, 11-12, 22; 7:1-3, 11-24; 8:5, 13-14, 20-22 |

- You can find _____ with God when the world is _____.

- Favor is ushered in by _____ to do what God _____.

- _____ is always right around the _____.

- Favor is ushered in through _____.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

What do you think?

1. From Sunday's message, what particular point stood out to you, challenged you, or raised a question for you?
2. How do you imagine life inside Noah's ark?

The story of your life.

1. Tell about a time in your life when you had to cope with something hard. How did you get through it? Where did you find encouragement in the midst of it?
2. How has this quarantine phase of life been hard and good for you?

Digging deeper.

1. Turn to 2nd Chronicles 7. To provide a little context, this is the story of Solomon dedicating Israel's temple. This was the pinnacle of Israel's society. Though reading about the height of a civilization might seem counterintuitive right now, there are some insights in there about God's perspective on what to do when things are not going well (like today). Read the entire chapter and answer the following questions.
 - a. Have a few members of the group recap the story using their own words.
 - b. What does this tell us about God? People? You?
 - c. How does this text offer insight into what God's people should do when things are not going as well for a nation (Re-read verses 13-14)?
 - d. In what ways do you sense God speaking to you right now in light of this passage of Scripture?

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