

4. Compare Philippians 4:6-7 with 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What parallels do you see? What do you think is meant by "Never stop praying"?

5. Review Nehemiah 8:10b. Brainstorm some things and people that you can celebrate this week. Pick one to plan as your action step for the week.

6. Pray and ask the Lord to show you what you need to *know* and what you need to *do* in response to what you've heard and read this week. Write here what comes to mind. Share your answer with your group if appropriate.

IN YOUR GROUP

In your Cornerstone Community group this week, discuss your answers to the ON YOUR OWN questions. In a one-hour online group session, you might spend a 10-15 minutes catching up, 40 minutes talking through the discussion questions above, and 15-20 minutes praying for one another and planning ways the group can meet needs and serve others.

With your giving you are playing a part in every "Yes!" at Cornerstone! Give online at [CORNERSTONENH.ORG/GIVE](https://www.cornerstonenh.org/give) or text the amount you want to donate to 84321. Checks can be sent to our mailing address below.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mail: PO Box 1011, Concord, NH 03302-1011
Voice or Text: 603-225-2550

Email: CONTACTUS@CORNERSTONENH.ORG



02/13-14/2021

WATCH, LISTEN & MORE AT [CORNERSTONENH.ORG](https://www.cornerstonenh.org)

Your name _____

Growth Guide

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

CONNECT AT CORNERSTONE

We want to encourage, inform, and connect with you! Go to [CornerstoneNH.org](https://www.cornerstonenh.org) and click on the New Here? link. (You can also text NEW to 603-225-2550.)

LIFE. BETTER.

*FOLLOWING JESUS MAKES LIFE BETTER
AND MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE.*

FIND YOUR NEXT STEP

[CornerstoneNH.org](https://www.cornerstonenh.org)

TODAY'S MESSAGE CHOOSE JOY

TODAY: JOY • NEHEMIAH 8:8-10

THE BOTTOM LINE

"...This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

– Nehemiah 8:10b NLT

WE CHOOSE JOY BECAUSE...

THERE'S _____ TO
_____ EVERY DAY

"...This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

– Nehemiah 8:10b NLT

This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it. – Psalm 118:24 NLT

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. – Ephesians 2:10 NLT

THERE'S _____ IN OUR _____

"...This is a sacred day before our Lord. **Don't be dejected and sad**, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"
– Nehemiah 8:10b NLT

They read from the Book of the Law of God, and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage. – Nehemiah 8:8 NLT

"Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. –
Nehemiah 8:9 NLT

Now I'm glad—not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him. – 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 MSG

Saying "YES!" to Jesus? Text **YES** to **603-225-2550**

*Let us celebrate your decision
& resource you for your new life in Christ.*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT

THERE'S _____ FOUND IN _____

"...This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength!**"
– Nehemiah 8:10b NLT

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength. –Proverbs 17:22 NLT

And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. – Nehemiah 8:10a NLT

THE CHALLENGE

**CELEBRATE _____ OR
_____ THIS WEEK**

Joy: *The overarching confidence that all will be well.*

Fun: *Adding joy to every task and every interaction.*

Gift: *Every interaction with others will feel like a gift.*

Cards you can download and print for your circle to fill out to help you determine your word of intention:

<http://brianforeman.org/post/myintent>

Original Idea: MyIntent.org

ON YOUR OWN

Answer these questions this week to reflect and go deeper.

TALK IT OVER with friends right now, using the questions highlighted in **bold**.

- 1. What are some things that have brought you joy over the past year?**
- From Nehemiah 8:8, describe the approach to teaching that Ezra and his cohorts used.
- 3. Review 2 Corinthians 7:9-10. What sorrows have prompted positive changes in your life?**