

**LIFT**

Mike Howerton - Lead Pastor

*Appoint the residents of Jerusalem to act as guards, everyone on a regular watch. Some will serve at sentry posts and some in front of their own homes.*  
**Nehemiah 7:3b NLT**

## **God's Will \_\_\_\_\_ for ALL of His Children**

*...all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had given for Israel to obey. So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law.* **Nehemiah 8:1-3 NLT**

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.* **Hebrews 4,11,12 NLT**

*Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.* **Proverbs 30:5 NLT**

*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*  
**Psalms 119:103 NIV**

## **God's Will \_\_\_\_\_ for Purposeful Living**

*Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are my constant guide.*  
**Psalms 119:97,98 NLT**

*Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.* **Nehemiah 8:5,6 NIV**

*The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Nehemiah 8:7,8 NIV*

*Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:9,10 NIV*

## **Pursuing God’s Will Leads God’s People \_\_\_\_\_**

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*The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun. Nehemiah 8:17b NLT*

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 NIV*

### **QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS //**

- *Have someone explain what The Kitale Project is... what’s it all about?*
- *God has a role for everyone. What do you sense is your role in His work in this world? What about your role in The Kitale Project?*
- *Read Psalm 119:103. What’s been the role of God’s word (the Bible) in your life?*
- *Read Psalm 119:97-98. Can you give an example of a time God’s word guided you? Gave you wisdom?*
- *God’s word is all about Jesus. How has this truth impacted the way you think about and read the Bible?*
- *What’s the role celebration plays in our faith? What’s something worth celebrating right now on your faith journey?*