**Messages Series: Building the Kingdom Together**

**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. November 27, 2016**

**Joy Is a Way of Life for God’s People**

Nehemiah 12:27-47

**Key truth:** Joy is the **indisputable** fruit of a life centered on Jesus Christ.

1. An **atmosphere** of joy should surround God’s

 people.

 A. It is good to celebrate what God has

 accomplished through His willing servants.

2. **Corporate** worship is one of the most expressive

 habits to communicate our unity in salvation.

 A. **Music** is a biblical language expressed in worship

 to God.

3. Our joy in the Lord is one way we **attract** and **testify**

 to others the greatness of our God.

 A. Joy is by-product of our **security** and **confidence**

 in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

4. **Cheerful** giving is an outpouring of a **grateful** heart.

 A. Giving is our confident trust in the **supply** and

 **sufficiency** of God to provide all that we need.

**Conclusion:** Choose joy no matterthe circumstances.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Chapter 12 describes joyful worship occurring after the people have repented and taken an oath. How are faithfulness and repentance linked to joyful worship?

2. Do you feel great joy during worship? What act of faithfulness or repentance might add to your joy?

3. Think about your own life as a believer. What completed work of “rebuilding” can you worship God for? What area in need of rebuilding can you trust him for?

4. What causes the Israelites to worship with such joy and extravagance? Does your worship focus on your own feelings or on giving God the honor He is due? What is the key to right focus in worship (see Ps. 96:7-9)?

5. Look at the first words of 12:44. What do they communicate about the people’s willingness to fulfill their oaths to the Lord? What makes us slow to deliver on the promises we have made to God and others? What does our slowness reveal about what we believe to be true about God?

6. How was your spiritual experience during this Connection Group?