



## SECOND CHANCES

### **ENGAGE**

**WELCOME** (Shake hands, give high-fives, write name tags, and connect with other students)

**ICEBREAKER** (Don't skip this part! This helps people connect and start conversation!)

- *What's the best gift you've ever received? What made it so special?*

**READ:** Nehemiah 8:7-10 NLT

“The Levites instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places. 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. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, ‘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. 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. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!’”

### **EQUIP**

#### **SET THE SCENE:**

For many years, the nation of Israel disobeyed God. God was patient, but eventually, He disciplined His children. They were conquered by other nations and forced to live in foreign lands. However, God did not forget His promises. He eventually brought His people home. God was always faithful to Israel, but Israel needed to understand what God’s Word said. As the priests helped them understand God’s Word, the people realized they had made a lot of poor choices. Their hearts were so broken by their sin and failure they couldn’t stop crying. The priest, Ezra, reminded them this was a day God had appointed for celebration, not weeping. God didn’t want the people to keep reminding themselves of their past failures and defeats. He wanted them to celebrate and rejoice that understanding His Word would help them grow and find joy in their life with God.

#### NOTE:

This outline is a flexible way to equip Huddle Leaders to lead their Huddle. It can meet the needs of various Huddle lengths as it can be anywhere between 30 minutes-55 minutes.



### **What does this scripture say about God's character and my relationship with Him?**

- God does not want learning His Word to make us feel ashamed or defeated. God works through His Word and His Spirit to help us become better decision-makers as we trust Him. God gave us His Word so we can know Him and have joy in following Him.
- *SALT LEADER EXAMPLE:*

### **What does this say about my relationship with others?**

- God redeemed Israel from their sin and shame by His grace and mercy. He wants us to share about His saving power with others, so they may know freedom and joy!
- *SALT LEADER EXAMPLE:*

### **How does this relate to sports?**

- There are times athletes don't compete their best and feel they let the team down. Rather than moving on, it is easy to dwell on mistakes. It's good to examine our choices and learn what we can from them, but at some point we have to let go of yesterday's performance. We can celebrate the good moments and the fact we have the chance to try again.
- *SALT LEADER EXAMPLE:*

### **INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION**

*Spend time in small groups discussing the following questions:*

1. Share a time when you learned something helpful from failing or making a poor choice.
2. Are you hard on yourself when you make mistakes? How does today's scripture change the way you think about failure?
3. *SALT LEADER QUESTION:*
4. *SALT LEADER QUESTION:*

### **EMPOWER CHALLENGE**

When you make a mistake or experience a moment of struggle, practice the chewing gum method - get what you can out of it, then spit it out and move on. In Christ, there's grace for all our mistakes and opportunity to live differently in Him!

### **PRAYER**

Break the Huddle. Invite the students to come back next week to engage with one another!

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