

Then he said to them,
"Go your way, eat the fat,
drink the sweet, and send
portions to those for whom
nothing is prepared; for this
day is holy to our Lord.
Do not sorrow, for the
JOY of the Lord is your
strength."

NEHEMIAH 8:10

Week 3



Day 2

Although Advent brings a sense of hope, peace, joy, and love, some of us may experience a depth of sadness at this time of year. We may be mourning those missing from our celebration or feel a loneliness that haunts us. Take heart, dear ones; you are not forgotten before the Father. He sees your pain and knows your sorrow. In this weariness, let Him comfort and encourage you.

This passage in Nehemiah speaks to a people overcome by all they have lost. They felt their shortcomings. Yet, God encouraged them to carry on in life and ministry because He would be their strength. That strength was the joy of the Lord.

Allow the joy of the Lord to be your strength. Enter into the holiday celebration despite the discouraging heaviness. Enjoy those things God is giving you, and give generously to those around you. See what God will do. You may be surprised by joy.

Prayer

Father, You know the things we hold inside away from the eyes of the world. Meet us in our need. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy (Psalm 126:5). Amen.

Call to Action

Be mindful of those who are grieving, those who are lonely, and those who are depressed. How can you reach out and draw them into the joy of the Lord?