



Recitation Script



Nehemiah instructs the people

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OVERVIEW

Key Points

A two-person recitation of Nehemiah 8:4-12 in which the Ezra instructed the Israelites, reading from God's word, after the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem.

Recitation Delivery Notes

This two-person recitation paints a picture of the scene in which there is a revival. There is a platform, people are arranged in certain places. Use body language to locate the personas onstage with you. The first reciter needs to memorize 13 names in verse 4, and 13 names in verse 7. That's a lot of names! Slow down through these and remember that each is an important person (they are mentioned in the Bible!) and practice some vocal variety in presenting each name.

As an alternating two-person recitation, when a person is not speaking, they should look at the person who is. This is a clue to audience about to whom they should pay attention.

Video



Key Quotes

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10b NIV)

<https://byheart.org/recitation-videos/nehemiah-84-12/>

“They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.” (Nehemiah 8:8 NIV)

Ezra reads the law

RECITER	PASSAGE
Reciter #1	Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.
Reciter #2	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.
Reciter #1	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 understood what was being read.
Reciter #2	Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy 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 holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
Reciter #1	The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

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