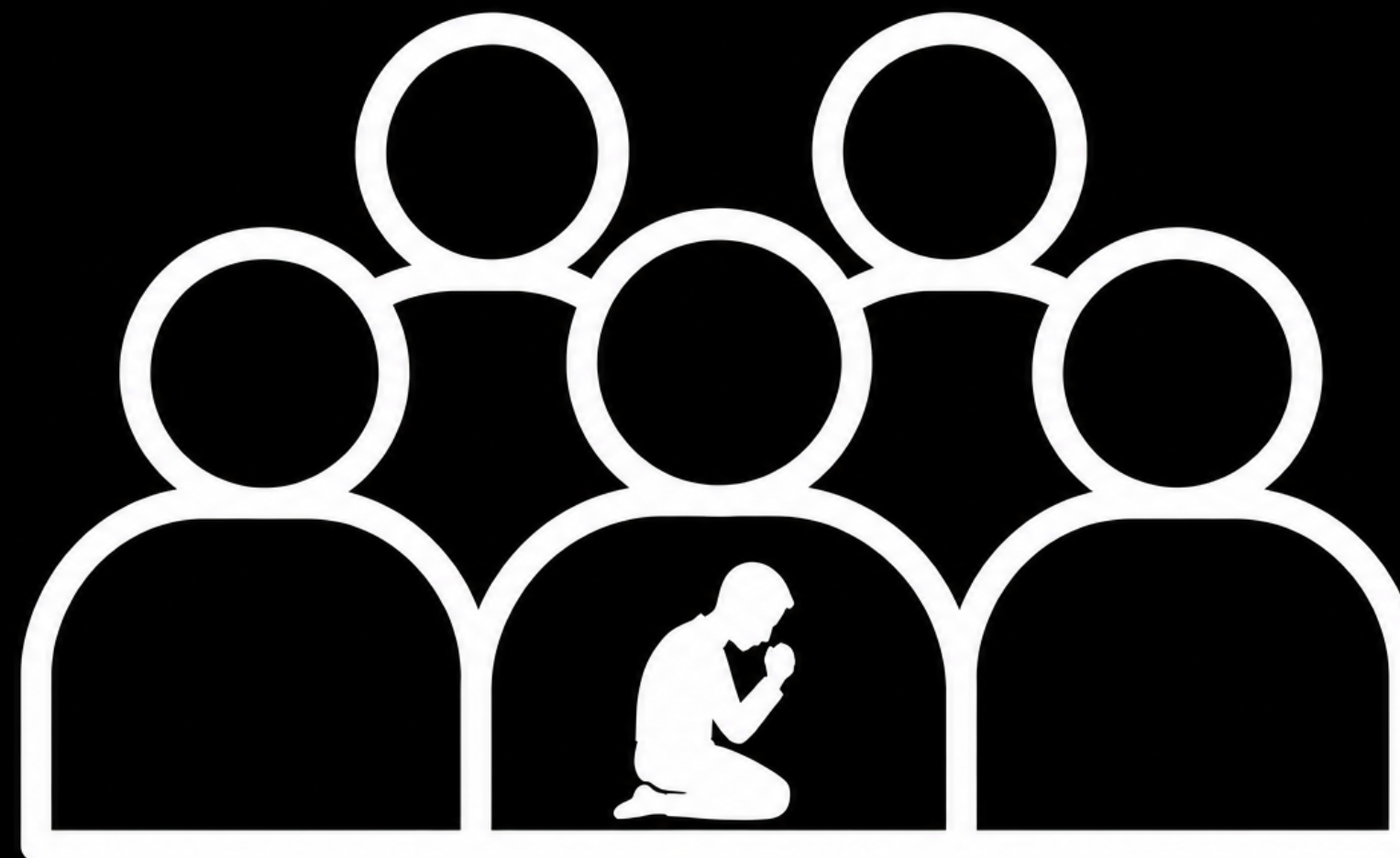


Let Us Arise and Build

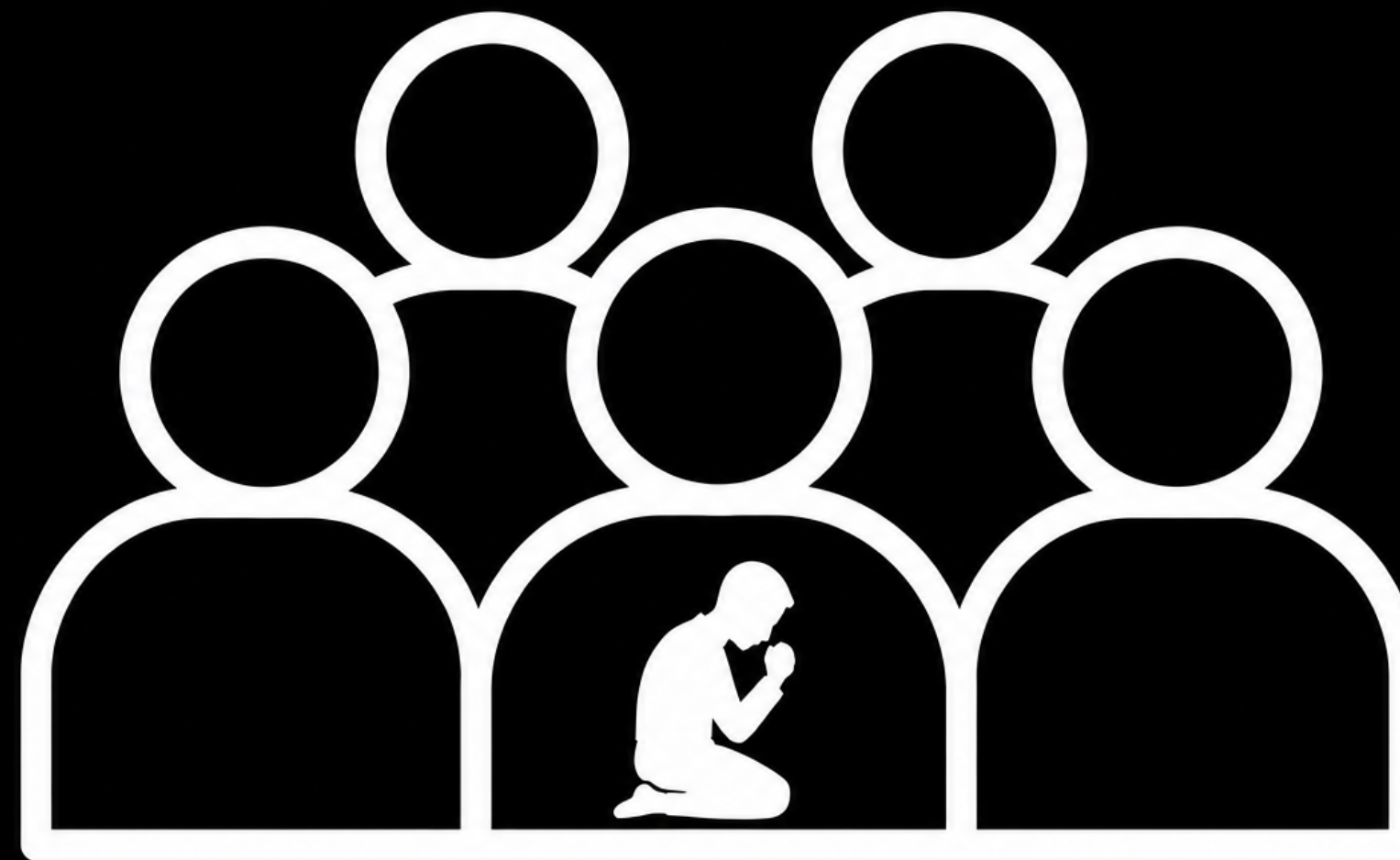
Nehemiah 8 Attentive to the Book



Prayer Focus Work Togetherness

The Big Truth:

When God's people are attentive to the Book,
then they worship, rejoice and obey.



Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.

1. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Worship (v. 1-8)
 - a. The people gathered as one man to listen to the book with understanding. (1-2)

Nehemiah 8:3 He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, **those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.** 4 Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand. 5 Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

1. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Worship (v. 1-8)

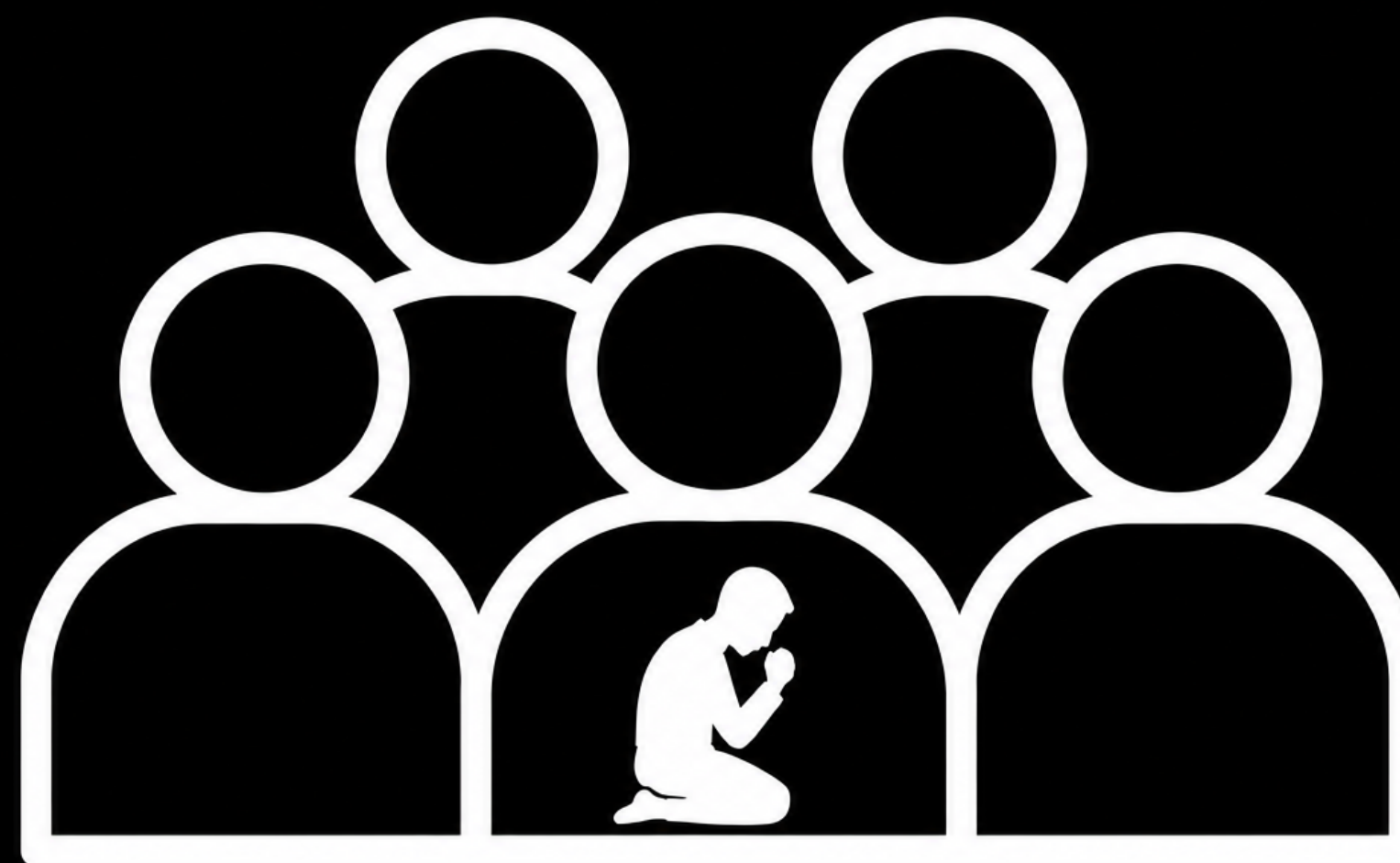
b. The people listened attentively as Ezra read insightfully. (v. 3-5)

Nehemiah 8:6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place. 8 They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

1. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Worship (v. 1-8)

c. God's Word understood leads God's people to worship. (v. 6-8)

The goal is not simply knowing the Bible;
understanding God through His Word produces a response to God.



Nehemiah 8:9 Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

2. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Joy (v. 9-12)

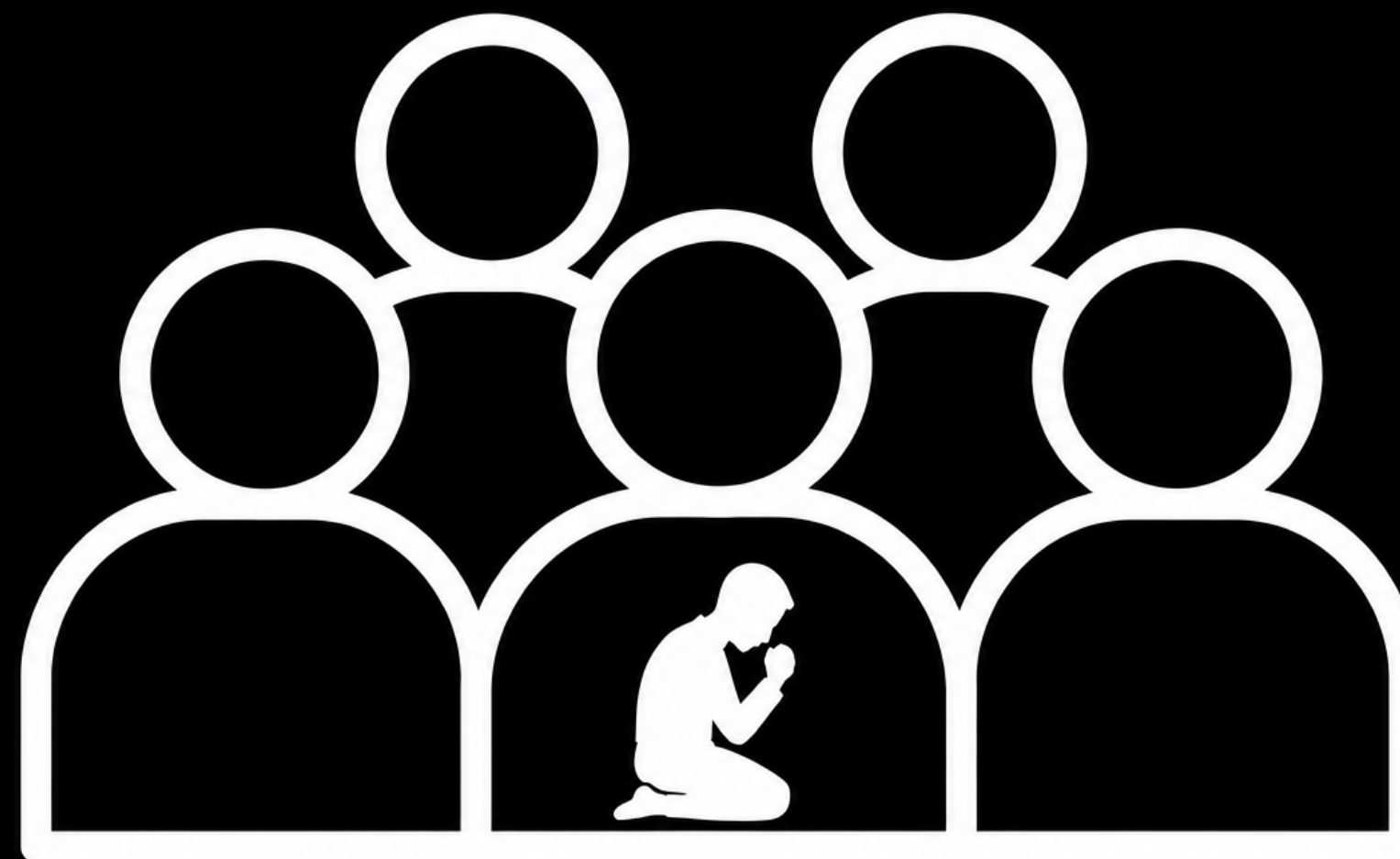
- a. The day is holy, and the joy of the LORD is our strength. (v. 9-10)

Nehemiah 8:11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” 12 All the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions and to celebrate a great festival, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

2. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Joy (v. 9-12)

b. God’s Word brings conviction, but God’s grace gives us reason to celebrate. (v. 11-12)

We don't obey God to earn His grace;
we obey because we have received His grace.

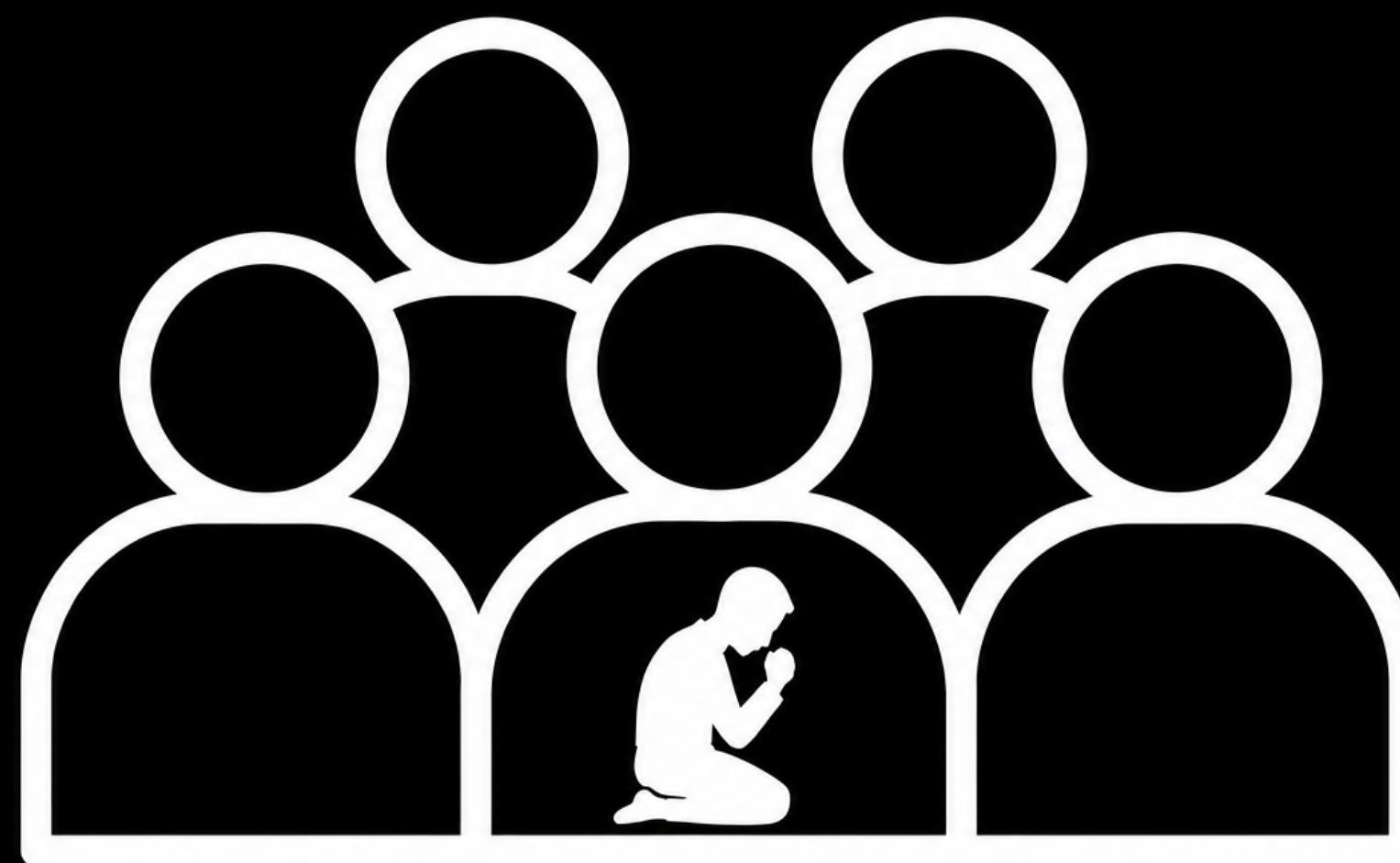


Nehemiah 8:13 Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law. 14 They found written in the law how the Lord had commanded through Moses that the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month.

3. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Obeying God's Commands (13-18)

a. We need The Word of God to know how to live. (v. 13-14)

God's Word does not just inform God's people;
it shapes how kingdom citizens live.

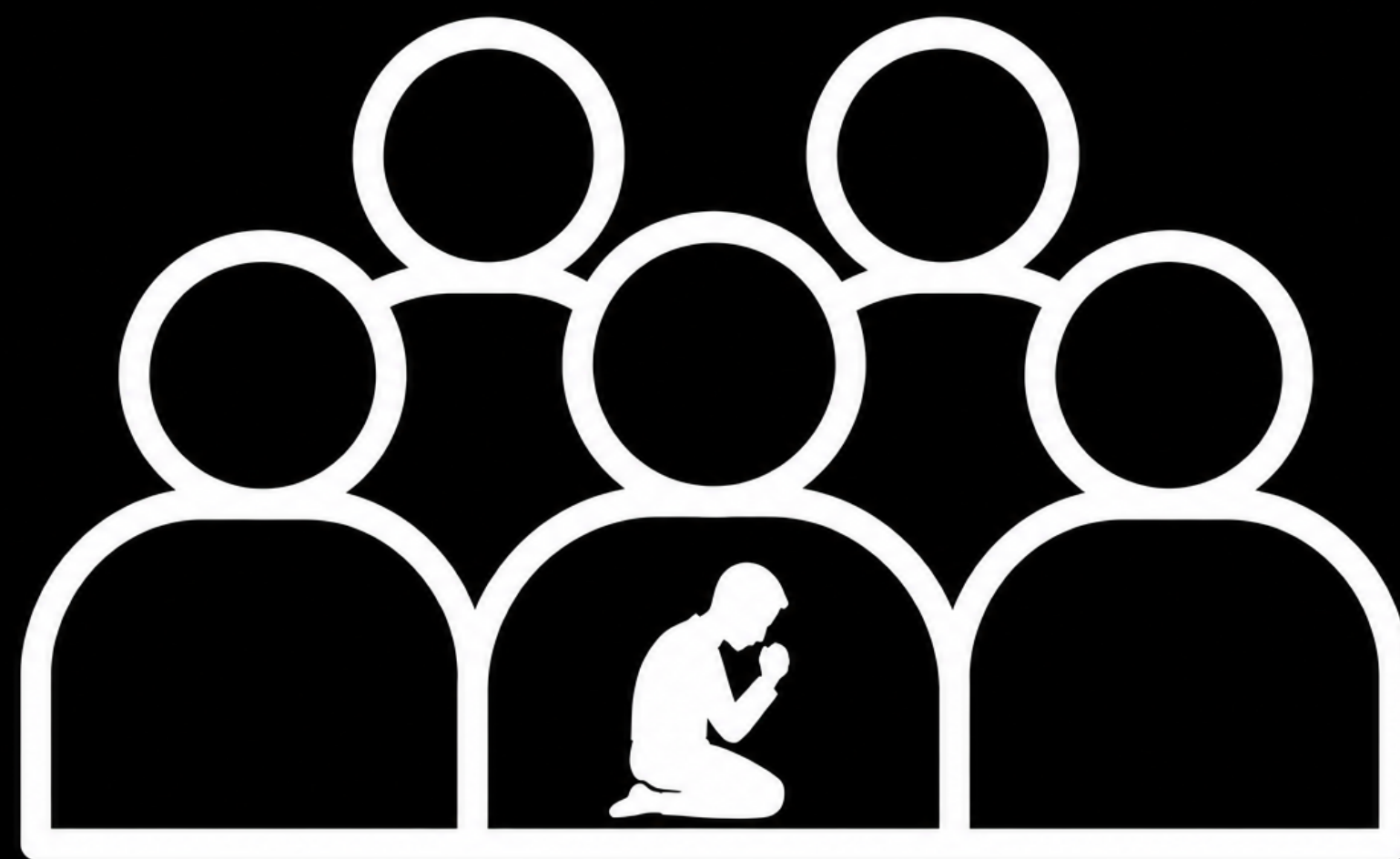


Nehemiah 8:15 So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, “Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written.” 16 So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. 17 The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing. 18 He read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.

3. Understanding God and His Word to the Point of Obeying God's Commands (13-18)

b. We don't just hear God's Word, but we act on God's direction. (v. 15-18)

Remember what God has done, rejoice in what God is doing,
and look forward to what God has promised.



When I ask: What do God's people do when we gather around His Word?
Let's all say: **We listen to the Word of God and seek to understand it.**

When I ask: What happens when we understand God and His Word?
Let's all say: **We worship the Lord with reverence and joy.**

When I ask: What do we remember when God's Word brings conviction?
Let's all say: **God's grace gives us new birth and strength to obey.**

When I ask: What is the joy of the Lord to us?
Let's all say: **The joy of the Lord is our strength. Let us arise and build.**

GOD'S KINGDOM WORK

FOLLOWING CHRIST

MATURING TOGETHER

MULTIPLYING GENERATIONS

LOVE / KNOW

SPEAK (THE TRUTH)

DO

THINK BIG

START SMALL

GO SLOW

BUILD DEEP

PRAYER

BY HIS GRACE

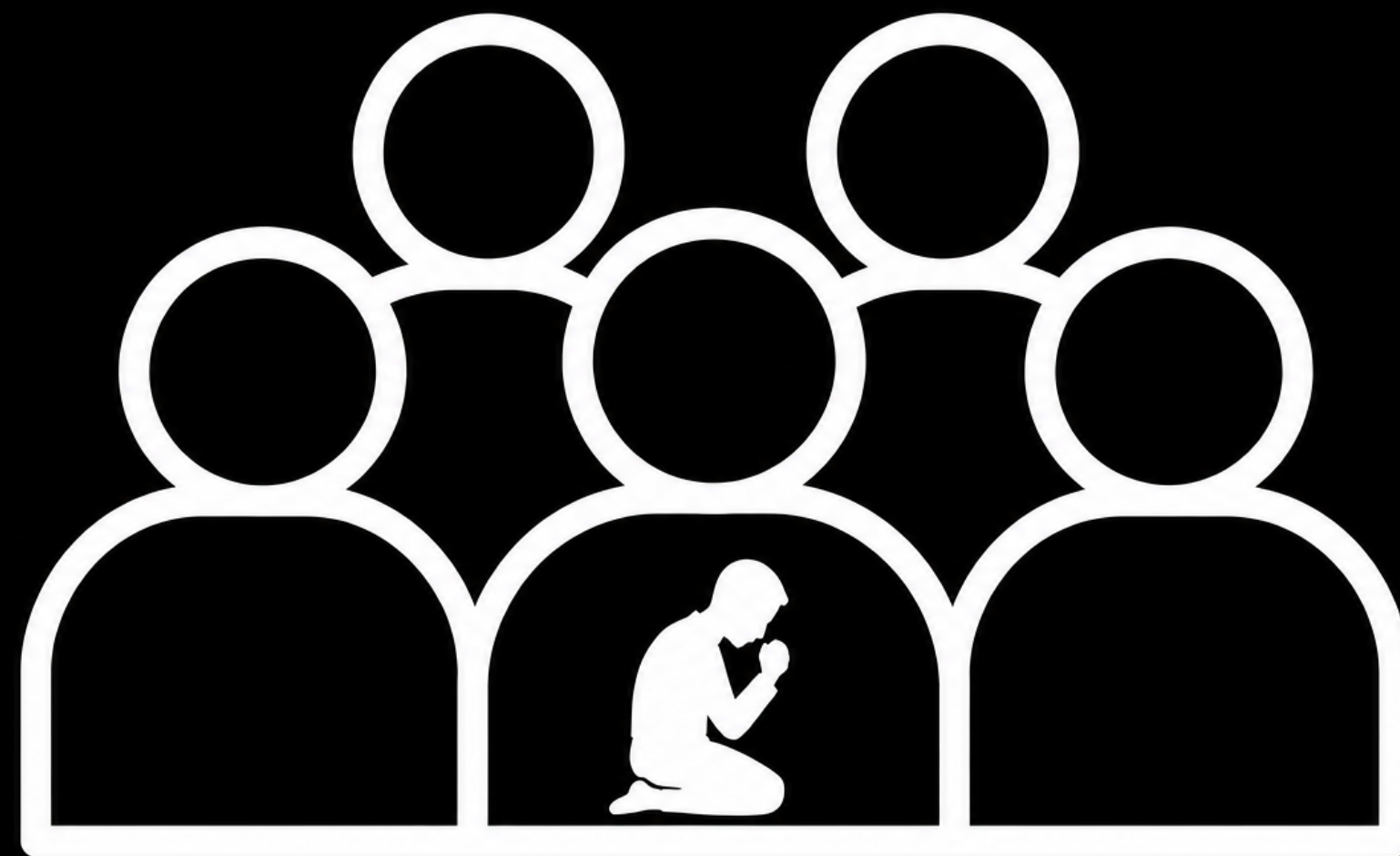
DONE IN LOVE

FOR HIS GLORY

GOD'S WORD

When God's people are attentive to the Book,
then they worship, rejoice and obey.

Are we attentive to the Book? Attentive enough to understand it?



Here is what we can do together as fellow workers:

This week,

**“Pray for God’s Word to be understood
so that it produces worship, joy, and obedience.”**

1. Consider your unity and the work we are to do.
2. Remember the gospel and call to holiness.
3. Examine yourself.

**The Lord’s Supper is for believers who come with thankful, surrendered hearts
committing to unite and work together in spreading the love of Christ
by advancing the gospel and making His glory known.**