

A misty forest path with tall trees and a gravel road leading into the distance. The scene is atmospheric, with soft light filtering through the trees. The path is made of gravel and leads towards a vanishing point in the distance. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# **CULTIVATING OUR CULTURE**

**WEEK 4**



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Gen 2:15 NASB

**15** Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.



A misty forest path with tall trees and a gravel road. The scene is a dense forest with a gravel path leading into the distance. The trees are tall and thin, with some bare branches and some evergreens. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and moss. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

Our understanding of cultivation.

-We will work at it.

-We will give it special attention.

-We will encourage and foster it to grow.



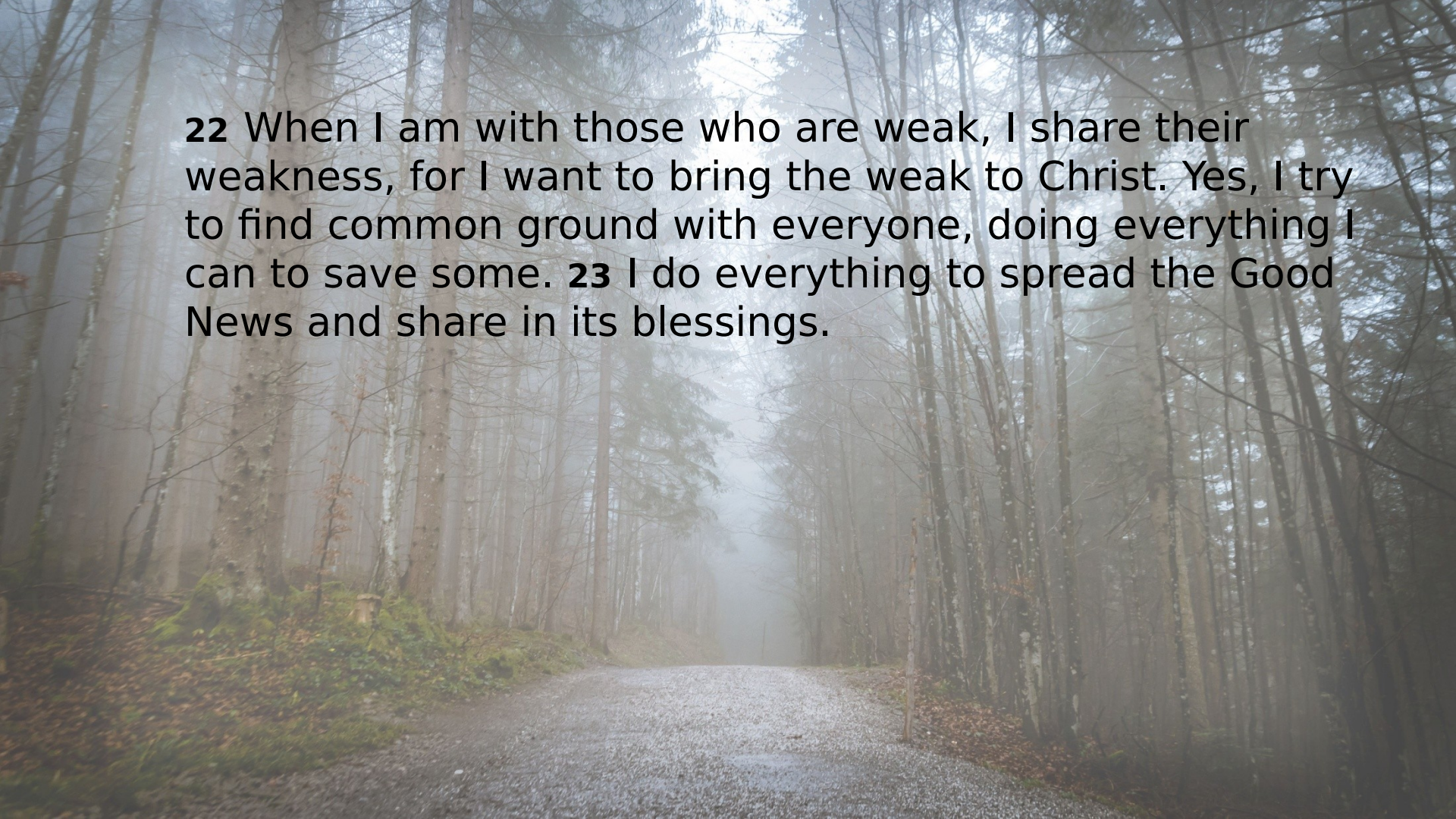
I. If you **do** what you've always **done**, you'll get what you've always **got**.

We cultivate **adaptability**.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NLT

**19** Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. **20** When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. **21** When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.



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**22** When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. **23** I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.



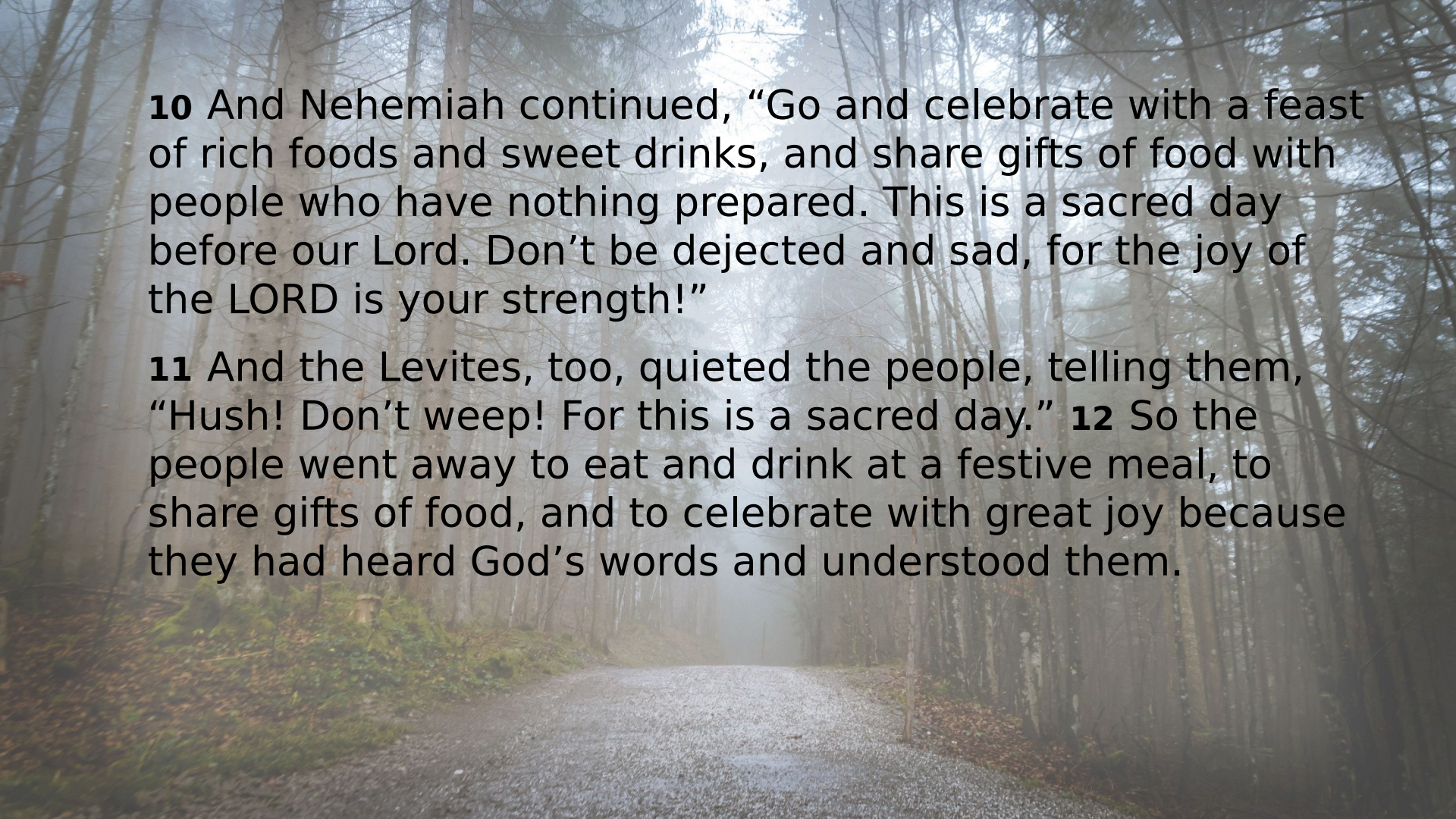
II. We are **serious** about the discipline of **joy**.  
We cultivate **celebration**.

Nehemiah 8:8-12 NLT

**8** 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.

**9** 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.



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**10** 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!”

**11** And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, “Hush! Don’t weep! For this is a sacred day.” **12** So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God’s words and understood them.