

# 3

## Leader Guide

# Studying to Understand

*September 18, 2022*

## Main Passage: Nehemiah 8:1-8

### Theological Theme

Believers should seek to know and understand the Bible in a real and practical way. Because the Word is living and active, it applies to life today and is necessary for Christ followers to know how to live in a way that pleases God.

### Introduction

- ❓ Why does it matter if you read the Word of God and understand it on your own?
- ❓ What is one of the difficulties you face when studying the Bible on your own?

### 1. Get in the Word (Nehemiah 8:1-3)

The people's posture to the Word indicates that the Holy Spirit was stirring them and prompting them. The fact that they asked Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses reinforces the work of the Spirit of God in the people.

- ❓ How were the people described as they listened to Ezra read the Word of God? Why was this significant?
- ❓ How do you see yourself as cooperating with what the Holy Spirit is doing? What can happen if you choose not to cooperate with what God is doing around you?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to do differently to make getting in the Word priority in your life?

### 2. Receive the Word (Nehemiah 8:4-6)

Another thing to note in this passage is the preparation that was taken so the Word could be received in the most effective way. This matters because Scripture is not just to be read or heard but it is to be received in the appropriate way.

- ❓ What can keep us from receiving God's Word appropriately?
- ❓ What is a practical way you can prepare your heart and mind to hear from God through His Word? What were some of the ways the people responded to the Word when Ezra blessed the Lord? How do these demonstrate respect for the Word?
- ❓ Application: What do you feel the Lord is challenging you to do in response to this text today?

### 3. Understand the Word (Nehemiah 8:7-8)

It is important to note all that happened as the people gathered to hear the Word of the Lord had the end goal that the people would hear and understand it.

- ❓ How do you typically respond when you struggle to understand something in the Bible?
- ❓ What kinds of things make it hard to discern what God's Word is saying to you?
- ❓ Application: Who might you ask for help in studying God's Word?

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

### Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

### Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).