



Confronted with the Word Nehemiah 8

What does the Bible teach?

We should desire know God's word. (v. 1)

We need the Bible's instruction. (v. 2)

The Bible leads us to worship and seek the Lord. (v. 3-6)

The Lord wants us to understand his word so that we can do what it teaches. (v. 7-8, 12)

Our proper response to God's word is repentance and obedience. (v. 9, 13-18)

How should I respond?

Ask God to give you understanding of his word.

Read the Bible regularly and attentively.

Commit to understand and obey God's word.



Confronted with God's Word

Group Discussion

1. What does the passage say?

What is the writer ultimately trying to communicate to his readers? What issue is the writer addressing?

2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?

How would a 1st Century Christ-follower receive this message?

3. What does this passage tell us about God?

Explain what you understand about God from the text. Is that a new idea or truth for you?

4. What does this passage tell us about man?

In your own words share what this passage encourages us to do to follow Jesus more fully and faithfully?

5. What does this passage demand of me?

Personally speaking, what areas of living in relationship with Jesus do you need to address?
How should you live in light of what this passage says?

6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

What does this passage communicate about the need for grace and humility in community with others? Whom should I invite to seek Jesus?

7. What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

Are you in need of forgiveness or repentance?
Do you need to intercede for others?
Do you need an "extra measure" of faith to follow Jesus or engage the community and world?

Nehemiah 8

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 The Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And 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 wept as they heard the words of the Law. 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." 11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

13 On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. 14 And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, 17 And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths...And there was very great rejoicing. 18 And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.