



Small Group Questions Nehemiah 8

REMINDER: The purpose of our small groups at Cypress is to learn to love one another. We seek to do this as we: 1. Study the Bible together; 2. Discuss how to put it into practice; 3. Pray together; and 4. Live life together. Please use these questions only as they help you achieve this purpose. You will notice that these questions are structured according to the three basic principles of Bible study - observation, interpretation, and application.

1. **Sermon Link:** Read Nehemiah 8. What stood out most as you listened to this chapter on Sunday?

2. **Observation – What do you see?**

Nehemiah 8 was the first time God’s Word had been read publicly after 150 years of exile. Read 1 Timothy 4:13. Why do you think this practice is so important *to* God and *for* God’s people? In what ways does the public reading of Scripture unite us together and build us up as a church?

After Ezra had read from God’s Word, it says that fourteen *teachers* (named in v.7) interpreted God’s Word “clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading” (v.8). Why is it important to read God’s Word *and* to study it with others *and* to work to understand it?

3. **Interpretation – What does it mean?**

It’s an awe-inspiring thing to consider: there is a God, He speaks to us, and His words are recorded for us in the Bible. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. How should this elevate the importance of the Bible in our lives and increase our desire to “study” it (v.13) with others?

When has God’s Word really come alive to you? Think of a time in your life when you were really eager to read God’s Word and respond it? If you’re comfortable, share this with your small group.

4. **Application – How does this apply?**

As you consider the *resurgence* of God’s Word (vv.1-8), the *reverence* for God’s Word (vv.9-12), and the *responsiveness* to God’s Word (vv.13-18) we see in Nehemiah 8, which of these three would you like to grow in the most or experience more of in your life? Why?

5. **Prayer ...**