

DANIEL 3-9

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 19, Year 2: Dan 3-9*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Daniel Chapter 3. According to v. 1, what did King Nebuchadnezzar make and set up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon for the people to worship? What was this image made of and big was it?

When the herald cried aloud to all the people and they heard the sound of all kinds of music, what were they to do? See Dan 3:5-7.

What would happen to anyone that did not fall down and worship the golden image, in v. 11?

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answer the King in vv. 17-18?

How was the faith of the three friends of Daniel tried? See Dan 3:20-23.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were bounded and cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace were they hurt, in v. 25? Who was the fourth person that King Nebuchadnezzar saw walking in the midst of the fire?

What did King Nebuchadnezzar say to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when he recognized that their God had delivered them out of the mouth of the burning fiery fire, in v. 26?

What was the decree or punishment that the King made concerning the three young Hebrew men inverse twenty-nine?

What lessons do you learn, and how do you apply them?

2. Read Daniel Chapter 4. What was the King's proclamation to all the people and nations that dwell in the earth? See Dan 4:1-3.

When the King saw a dream that made him afraid, who was the only one that could interpret the dream, in vv. 4:7-9?

What dream did God send the King to warn him in vv. 10-13?

Describe the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had in these verses that made him afraid, in vv. 4:14-17?

What did King Nebuchadnezzar say to Belteshazzar in verse eighteen?

Did Daniel interpret the vision of King Nebuchadnezzar? See Dan 4:19-24.

What was to happen to King Nebuchadnezzar in verse 25?
How long was the King to dwell like a beast in the field and eat grass like oxen?

What was the final result of the King's vision in Dan 4:32-33?

Who did King Nebuchadnezzar give praise and honor to at the end of his days, in v. 37?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

3. Read Daniel Chapter 5. Who was the king at the great feast when a thousand lords were drinking wine from the golden and silver vessels, in v. 1?

How did the King Belshazzar defile the vessels of the house of God? See Dan 5:3-4.

Was King Belshazzar scare when the fingers of a man's hand wrote on the wall, in v. 6?

What did the King promise to the wise men of Babylon that whosoever could read this writing and show him its interpretation, in v. 7?

When all the King's wise men came could they read the writing and interpret it for him, in v. 8?

Who spoke to the King and said for him not to be troubled that there was a man in his kingdom that could interpret the writing, in v. 10?

Who was the one that the King Belshazzar called to show him the interpretation of the writing on the wall, in vv. 12-13?

What did the King promise Daniel, if he could read the writing and tell him the interpretation of it, according to v. 16?

What did Daniel say to the King Belshazzar about the gifts and rewards that he offered to him, in v. 17?

What was the interpretation of the writing on the wall in these verses of the book of Daniel? See Dan 5:26-28.

When the King made a proclamation concerning Daniel, that he should be the third ruler in his kingdom, what happened to the King, in v. 30?

Who took control of the kingdom after the death of Belshazzar and how old was he at this time, in v. 31?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

4. Read Daniel Chapter 6. Why did the King prefer Daniel about all of the presidents and the princes, in v. 3?

Did the presidents and all of the princes find any occasion or fault in Daniel, in v. 4?

What kind of trap did all of the presidents and princes lay for Daniel? See Dan 6:7-8.

What did Daniel do in his house three times a day, in v. 10?

What was the decree for that King Darius signed in writing and the punishment, in v. 12?

Why could not the King alter this decree that he sighed, in v. 15?

Who commanded that Daniel be brought and cast into the lion's den, in v. 16?

What was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den and what did the King sealed it with, in v. 17?

When the King came to den and cried with a lamentable voice to Daniel, what did the King ask him, in v. 20?

What was Daniel's reply to the King? See Dan 6:21-22.

What did the King do to all of the men and their families that accused Daniel, in v. 24?

What was the decree that King Darius made to all the people in his kingdom, according to v. 26? What lessons do you learn?

5. Read Daniel Chapter 7. According to the first verse, what did Daniel have in the first year of Belshazzar, the King of Babylon?

When Daniel spoke about his vision, how did he describe this dream in vv. 2-3?

How did Daniel describe the first world empire of Babylon, according to Dan 7:4 and Dan 2:37-38?

How did Daniel describe the second world empire of Medo-Persia? See Dan 7:5; 2:39; 8:20.

How did Daniel describe the third world empire of Greece? See Dan 7:6; 2:39; 8:21-22; 11:2-4.

How did Daniel describe the fourth world empire of Rome? See Dan 7:7; 2:40-43; 7:23-24; 9:26.

What did Daniel tell about Rome, the final form of the fourth world empire, and the ten kings and the little horn, in v. 8?

How did Daniel describe the coming of the Son of man Jesus Christ? See Dan 7:9-14; Matt 24:27-30; Matt 25:31-34; Rev 19:11-21.

When Daniel was grieved by his spirit about the visions in his head, how was the interpretation made know to him? See Dan 7:17-23.

What did Daniel say about the blasphemous leader Satan, and what will happen to the kingdom and his dominion, in 7:24-27?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

6. Read Daniel Chapter 8. Where was Daniel when the vision appeared to him in verse two?

How did Daniel describe the vision that he saw by the river of Ulai? See Dan 8:3-8. When Daniel saw the he-goat come close to the ram, what happened to the ram?

How long were the vision of the daily sacrifice and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot, in v. 14?

Who was the Angel that explained the interpretation of Daniels vision in verse sixteen?

What did the Angel say to Daniel concerning his vision in vv. 17-19?

What was the identity of the ram that Daniel saw with two horns, in v. 20?

Who is the he-goat in this verse twenty-one, who is the one between his eyes?

What will the King of fierce countenance do in vv. 23-25?

What was Daniel to do about this vision in verse twenty-six?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

7. Read Daniel Chapter 9. Who was the other prophet in verse two?

Who was the King that was over the realm of the Chaldeans, in v. 1?

What was Daniels confession and prayer to the Lord in vv. 4-19?

What happened to Daniel, when he was speaking in prayer to his God, in v. 21?

May, Year 2

How was the seventy weeks of Daniels vision explained to him in Dan 9:24-27?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

DANIEL 10-12; EZRA 1-7

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 20, Year 2: Dan 10-12; Ezra 1-7*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Daniel Chapter 10. Who was the King of Persia in verse one?

How long was Daniel mourning in verse two?

When Daniel lifted up his eyes and looked he saw a certain man, how did he describe him? See Dan 10:5-6.

When Daniel saw the vision in this verse what happened to the men that were with him, in v. 7?

Describe what kind of state that Daniel was in vv. 10:8-9?

What did the Angel say to Daniel in vv. 11-14? What lessons do you learn?

2. Read Daniel Chapter 11. When the three Kings stand up what will the fourth King have in verse two?

When the mighty King stand up to rule with great dominion and do his will, what will happen to his kingdom, in v. 4?

What will happen to the King's daughter, after the agreement was made with the King of the north? See Dan 11:6-10.

What will happen to the arms of the South in verse fifteen?

May, Year 2

Who is the Northern King that Daniel is referring to in verses twenty-one through thirty-five?

How will the vile person appear and how will he obtain his kingdom in verse twenty-one?

What is in the hearts of both of these Kings and what will they speak of at the table in v. 27?

When the King returns and pollutes the sanctuary of the temple, what does he take away in v. 31?

Who is the willful King that exalts himself and magnifies himself above every god, and what else does he speak of in v. 36?

What will the god of his forces and the god of his fathers be honored with in v. 38? What lessons do you learn?

3. Read Daniel Chapter 12. How is the great tribulation described in verse one?

What will happen to those who are asleep in the dust of the earth at the resurrection? See Dan 12:2-3.

What happened when Daniel was told to shut up the words, and seal the book in v. 4?

Who were the two others that stood on each side of the river in verse five?

Who ask the question, how long shall it be to the end of these wonders in verse six?

Who ask the Lord, what shall be the end of these things in verse eight?

What did the Lord tell Daniel about the end of time in vv. 9-13?
What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

4. Read Ezra Chapter 1. Who was Cyrus in verse one? Why did Cyrus make his proclamation in this verse? Whose prophecy did Cyrus's decree fulfill in this verse? What motivated Cyrus to make his announcement in this verse?

What did Cyrus believe he was appointed to do in verse two?
Who gave Cyrus the authority to build the temple in this verse?

What specific instructions did Cyrus give to the people in vv. 3-4?

Who was to provide the materials to build the temple in verse four?

Who went to Jerusalem to build the temple in verse five? What motivated the people of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi to go to Jerusalem?

What specific materials were provided to build the temple in Jerusalem, in v. 6?

Where did King Cyrus get the articles that he provided for the temple, in v. 7?

Who took all of the temple articles from Persia to Jerusalem in vv. 8-11?

What had been stolen from the temple by Nebuchadnezzar in vv. 9-11? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read Ezra Chapter 2. Why were the Israelites in exile, according to verse one? Where were the Jews held in captivity? What did the Israelites do when they were released from captivity?

May, Year 2

How did the Jews keep the memories of their homes while in exile? See Ezra 2:1-2.

Which families were unable to prove their Jewish heritage in Ezra 2:59-60.

Why were some of the Israelites excluded from the priesthood in verse sixty-two?

Why were freewill offerings given to the house of the Lord in verse sixty-eight?

What did the Jews do when they reached Jerusalem in vv. 68-69?

How was the size of each, family's offering determined by in v. 69? What lessons do you learn, and how do you apply them?

6. Read Ezra Chapter 3. What point in Israel's history did these events take place at in verse one? Where did the Israelites assemble themselves at, according to this verse?

Who began to build the altar in Jerusalem in verse two? Why did the Israelites build the altar in this verse? What were the Israelites obeying by building the altar in this verse?

What did the Israelites have to overcome to build the altar? Why were the Israelites afraid? What did the Israelites do when they had completed their building project? See Ezra 3:3.

Why did the Israelites celebrate in verse four?

On what occasions was it appropriate to give offerings to the Lord in vv. 4-5?

What happened after the Feast of Tabernacles in verse five?

What had still not been completed at this point in verse six?

May, Year 2

Who was given money to begin restoring the temple in verse seven? What was given to the people of Sidon and Tyre? What did the people of Sidon and Tyre provide for the Jews? Who authorized the transactions between the Israelites and their neighbors?

When did the work on the temple begin in verse eight? Who is listed in the passage as working on rebuilding the temple?

Who was appointed to supervise the building project in vv. 8-9?

What happened when the foundation of the temple was laid in verse ten?

What did the priests and the Levites use to praise the Lord in verse ten?

How did Israel praise the Lord in Ezra 3:10-11? What motivated the uprising of praise from the Israelites in these verses?

How did the older leaders react to the laying of the temple's foundation? See Ezra 3:12-13.

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

7. Read Ezra Chapter 4. Who did Israel build the temple for in verse one? What did the enemies of Israel hear?

What is the setting of this story in Ezra 4:1-2? What did Israel's enemies do when they heard about the rebuilding of the temple?

Why did Israel's enemies say they wanted to help build the temple in verse two? How did Israel's enemies try to prove that they worshiped the Lord?

How did the Israelite family heads respond to their enemies' offer? Why did Israel not want help in rebuilding the temple in verse three?

May, Year 2

What did Israel's enemies do when Israel refused their help in verse four?

How did the enemies of Israel attempt to discourage the rebuilding of the temple? See Ezra 4:4-5.

Why were counselors hired in verse five in verse five? How long did Israel's enemies try to discourage them from their task?

At what point in Israel's history did these events take place in verse six? Who lodged an accusation against the Israelites in verse six?

Who wrote a letter to Artaxerxes in vv. 6-7?

Why did Israel's enemies write a letter to Artaxerxes in Ezra 4:8-16?

How was Jerusalem described in the letter to Artaxerxes in verse twelve?

What danger was there in Jerusalem, according to Rehum in v. 13?

What motivated Rehum and Shimshai to send their letter to the king, in v. 14?

What advice did Rehum give to the king in verse fifteen? According to Rehum, what would the king's records reveal about the Jews? Why was Jerusalem originally destroyed, according to the letter?

What did Rehum and Shimshai's letter say would result from Jerusalem's restoration, in v. 16?

How did the king respond to Rehum and Shimshai's letter in verse seventeen?

May, Year 2

Why did Artaxerxes order the Israelites to stop rebuilding the temple? See Ezra 4:18-22.

What did the king's records reveal about Jerusalem in verse twenty?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

8. Read Ezra Chapter 5. Who are the prophets in this passage of this verse one? Whose name did the prophets prophesy in this verse?

How were Zerubbabel and Jeshua able to start rebuilding the temple again, in v. 2?

Why did the governor and his associates approach Zerubbabel and Jeshua, in v. 3?

What prevented the governor from stopping the work on the temple in verse five?

Who sent a letter to King Darius in verse six?

How did the governor describe Israel's God in his letter to the king, in v. 8? What did the letter to the king say about the Israelites' work on the temple?

Why was a letter sent to the king in vv. 8-17?

How had the Jewish leaders responded to their enemies' questions? See Ezra 5:11-16.

How did the Jews view themselves and their work in verse eleven?

According to the Jews, why was Israel handed over to their enemies, in v. 12?

What had King Cyrus done for Israel in Ezra 5:13-15?

What did Tattenai request of King Darius in the letter in verse seventeen?

What lessons do you learn, and how do you respond?

9. Read Ezra Chapter 6. Why were the archives in Babylon searched in verse one?

What was found in the archives of the Babylonian treasury in verse two?

What decree had King Cyrus issued concerning the temple in Jerusalem? What specific instructions were given to those rebuilding the temple? See Ezra 6:3-5.

What order did King Darius give to Tatnai and his associates? See Ezra 6:6-7.

What additional help did King Darius order the governor to give to the Israelites? See Ezra 6:8-12.

How did the king ensure that his edict would not be changed in verse eleven?

How did the governor and his associates react to the king's decree, in v. 13?

Under whose instruction did the work of the Jews prosper in verse fourteen?

When was the temple in Jerusalem completed in verse fifteen?

How did Israel react to the completion of the temple in Ezra 6:16-22?

Why were priests installed at the temple in v. 18?

May, Year 2

When and how was Passover celebrated in vv. 19-22?

How did the restoration of the temple affect those Israelites who had been involved in the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors, in v. 21?

Why was this Passover celebrated with such great joy in verse twenty-two?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

10. Read Ezra Chapter 7. How is Ezra described in Ezra 7:1-6 and 7:9-11?

Why was the king so favorable toward Ezra in verse six?

To what was Ezra devoted in verse ten?

Why had the king given Ezra a letter in Ezra 7:11-26?

Why was Ezra sent to Jerusalem in verse fourteen?

What gifts did the king give to Ezra to take to Jerusalem in vv. 15-17?

What was Ezra supposed to do with the gifts that the king gave him in vv. 17-20?

What order did King Artaxerxes give to his treasurers in verse twenty-one?

What limits did the king put on his gifts to Ezra in vv. 22-23?

What motivated the king to give so generously to Ezra in verse twenty-three?

How was Ezra qualified to appoint leaders to administer justice in the king's realm, according to v. 25?

May, Year 2

What punishment did the king prescribe for those who would not obey the laws of God, in v. 26?

How did Ezra react to the king's giving him so much power and authority, in v. 27?

**Whom did Ezra credit for his success in verse twenty-eight?
What action did Ezra take in response to the king's letter?**

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how would respond?

EZRA 8-10; NEHEMIAH 1-8

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading for Week 21, Year 2: Ezra 8-10; Neh 1-8*
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Ezra 8. Where did Ezra and his traveling companions assemble in v. 15? What was Ezra unable to find in his camp?

Why did Ezra choose these particular men in verse sixteen?

Whom did Ezra send to Iddo and for what reason in Ezra 8:16-17?

What did the men ask of Iddo, the leader in Casiphia in verse seventeen?

Whom did Ezra credit for the men's success in verse eighteen?

Why did Ezra proclaim a fast in verse twenty-one?

Why was Ezra ashamed to ask the king for protection in verse twenty-two?

How did God respond to the Israelites' prayers and fasting in verse twenty-three?

Why did Ezra set apart twelve men in v. 24?

What was donated for the house of the Lord in vv. 25-27?

What specific instructions did Ezra give to the twelve priests in vv. 28-29?

May, Year 2

How was Ezra's caravan able to travel safely between the Ahava Canal and Jerusalem, in v. 31?

What happened on the fourth day after Ezra and his group arrived in Jerusalem? See Ezra 8:33-34.

What did the exiles do upon returning to their homeland in Ezra 8:35-36?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how would you respond?

2. Read Ezra Chapter 9. What sin were the Israelites guilty of in vv. 1-2? What was wrong with the Israelites' not being separate from their neighbors?

Who initiated a sinful practice among the Israelites in verse two?

How did Ezra react to the news about Israel's sin in verse three?

Who gathered around Ezra when he was grieving for Israel's sin in verse four?

What did Ezra do at the evening sacrifice in Ezra 9:5-6?

Why was Ezra ashamed in verse six?

How did Ezra explain the oppression Israel had experienced in verse seven?

What way had the Lord been gracious to Israel in vv. 8-9?

How did Ezra view himself in God's sight in verse nine?

What did Ezra confess to God in verse ten?

May, Year 2

Why did the Lord not want the Israelites to intermarry with their neighbors, in vv. 11-12?

What blessing did God promise Israel if they obeyed Him in verse twelve?

What did Ezra believe Israel deserved for their sin in verse fourteen?

Why did Ezra feel unfit to stand in the Lord's presence in verse fifteen?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how would you respond?

3. Read Ezra Chapter 10. What was Ezra doing in verse one? Why was Ezra so upset? Why did a large crowd gather around Ezra?

Why did Ezra wait for the Israelites to come up with their own plan to solve their problem? See Ezra 10:1-2.

Who offered a ray of hope to the guilt-ridden Israelites in verse two?

What advice did Shechaniah give to the Israelites in verse three?

What role did Ezra play in the repentance of Israel in verse five?

Why did Ezra withdraw from the house of the Lord in verse six?

How was the covenant the Israelites made before God enforced in verse eight?

What specific instructions did Ezra give to the Israelites in Ezra 10:10-11?

May, Year 2

How did the people respond to Ezra's call to repentance in vv. 12-14?

Why was the Israelites' problem not resolved immediately in verse thirteen?

How did the Israelites turn from their sin and reconcile themselves with God in Ezra 10:16-17?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

When did the events of this passage take place in verse one?

Why did Nehemiah question his brother in vv. 1-2?

What report did Hanani and his men give to Nehemiah in verse three?

How did Nehemiah react to the news about Jerusalem and the exiles in verse four?

How did Nehemiah describe God in his prayer in verse five?

According to Nehemiah, with whom does God keep His covenant of love in verse five?

What made Nehemiah more aware of his own sinfulness in Neh 1:5-6?

What is the major theme of Nehemiah's prayer in vv. 5-11?

Whose behalf did Nehemiah pray and fast for in verse six?

What sins were the Israelites guilty of in verse seven?

What instruction did the Lord give to Moses in verse eight?

What promise of the Lord could the Israelites claim, according to Nehemiah in verse nine?

How did Nehemiah describe the people of Israel in his prayer in verse ten?

What specific request did Nehemiah ask God to grant him in verse eleven?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how can you respond?

4. Read Nehemiah Chapter 2. Why was Nehemiah able to meet with the king in verse one? How had Nehemiah acted in the king's presence in the past? How did Nehemiah's behavior present an opportunity for him in verse one?

What did the king ask Nehemiah in verse two? What did the king assume about Nehemiah's demeanor in this verse?

What did Nehemiah have to overcome to give the king an honest answer? See Neh 2:2-3.

How did Nehemiah describe his problem to the king in verse three?

What did Nehemiah do before he told the king what he wanted in verse four?

What did Nehemiah ask of the king in vv. 5-7?

Why did Nehemiah ask that letters be sent to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, in v. 7?

How did Nehemiah explain the generosity of the king in verse eight?

May, Year 2

Who was disturbed by Nehemiah's actions and why in verse ten?

What did Nehemiah do when he first arrived in Jerusalem in vv. 11-12?

What strategy did Nehemiah use in surveying the state of the city in vv. 11-16? How did Nehemiah prepare himself to present his plan to the Jews in these verses?

From where did Nehemiah receive his motivation to rebuild Jerusalem, in v. 12?

What did Nehemiah find in his inspection of the city in verse thirteen?

Why were the officials unaware of Nehemiah's plan in verse sixteen?

Why did Nehemiah say that the Israelites were in disgrace in verse seventeen?

How did Nehemiah motivate the Israelites to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in Neh 2:17-18?

How did the Jews respond to Nehemiah in verse eighteen? What encouragement did Nehemiah offer those people who may have initially doubted his plan?

Why did Nehemiah experience opposition to the work of rebuilding Jerusalem in verse nineteen?

How did Nehemiah respond to his critics in verse twenty?

Whom did Nehemiah credit for the Israelites' expected success in verse twenty?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

5. Read Nehemiah Chapter 3. How did the priests set the example for all the Israelites in verse one? What did the priests do when they had completed sections of the walls and gates of Jerusalem? What project was the Israelites working on in verse one? What does the priests' dedication of their work reveal about their motivation?

What kinds of people were involved in rebuilding Jerusalem in vv. 1-32? What does the wide spectrum of people involved reveal about the Israelites' commitment to this project? Keeping in mind the practical reason for the restoration of the city, why was most of the rebuilding focused on the gates?

What criticism was leveled at the men of Tekoites in verse five?

Why did the common people of Tekoites have to do double-duty work in rebuilding the walls of the city? See Neh 3:5; 27.

How did the Israelites decide who would rebuild what? See Neh 3:10; 28-30.

What lessons do you learn, and how can you apply them?

6. Read Nehemiah Chapter 4. Why did Sanballat become angry with the Jews in verse one?

How did Sanballat treat the Jews in vv. 1-2?

What did Sanballat and Tobiah do to discourage the Jews from rebuilding the city walls? See Neh 4:1-3.

What role did Nehemiah play in these events in vv. 1-23?

How did Nehemiah respond to the taunts of his enemies in vv. 4-5?

According to Nehemiah, why were the Jews so successful in their work in verse six?

In what specific ways did Nehemiah and the Israelites show commitment to this project? See Neh 4:6-23.

What did Israel's enemies do when they heard of Israel's success in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls? See Neh 4:7-8.

How did Nehemiah and the Jews respond to the evil plotting of their enemies, in v. 9?

What did Nehemiah do to encourage the Israelites and protect them from their enemies? See Neh 4:10-14.

How were the Jews able to return to their work of rebuilding the city walls, in v. 15? Who frustrated the plotting of Israel's enemies in this verse?

What sacrifices did the people have to make because of the threats of their enemies? See Neh 4:16-18.

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

7. Read Nehemiah Chapter 5. What is the conflict between some of the Jews at the beginning of this story in vv. 1-5?

What caused the Israelites' problems in vv. 3-5?

How did Nehemiah react to the Israelites' complaints in verse six?

What did Nehemiah do before he took any action in verse seven?

What accusations did Nehemiah make against the officials in vv. 7-11?

What action did Nehemiah take on behalf of the Israelites in vv. 7-18?

How did the officials respond to Nehemiah's accusations and why, in 8-12?

Why were the actions of the officials wrong in verse nine?

How did Nehemiah ensure that the officials would keep their promise in vv. 12-13?

What ways was Nehemiah different from other officials in vv. 14-18? What prevented Nehemiah from acting the same way the other officials did?

What did Nehemiah want in return for his generosity to the Israelites in verse nineteen?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how can you respond?

8. Read Nehemiah Chapter 6. What prompted Sanballat and his associates to send Nehemiah a message in verse one?

What motivated Sanballat and his associates to summon Nehemiah in vv. 1-2?

What did Sanballat ask of Nehemiah in verse two?

How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's invitation in verse three?

What reason did Nehemiah give for why he could not meet with Sanballat in verse six?

What was different about the fifth time Sanballat sent the message to Nehemiah in vv. 5-7?

How did Nehemiah respond to Sanballat's accusations in verse eight?

What did Nehemiah's opponents assume would be the result of their threats, in v. 9? From where did Nehemiah receive his strength to continue the work?

What advice did Shemaiah give to Nehemiah in verse ten?

What did Nehemiah think of Shemaiah's advice in verse eleven?

What insight did the Lord give to Nehemiah regarding Shemaiah's advice, in v. 12?

What caused Shemaiah to prophesy against Nehemiah in vv. 12-13? Why didn't Nehemiah back down as his opponents wanted in these verses?

Toward what goal were Nehemiah's enemies working in verse thirteen?

Why did Nehemiah pray in verse fourteen?

How did the Israelites' enemies react to the news that the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt, in vv. 15-16?

Why did the nations surrounding Israel lose their self-confidence, in v. 16? Who was given credit for Israel's success, even by their enemies?

Why was it necessary for guards to be posted around the walls of Jerusalem in verse seventeen?

Why did Tobiah continue to send letters to Nehemiah in verse nineteen?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how can you respond?

9. Read Nehemiah Chapter 7. What happened after the walls of Jerusalem had been completed in vv. 1-2?

May, Year 2

How did Nehemiah choose the men to put in charge over Jerusalem in verse two? How is Hananiah described in this verse?

What extra precaution did Nehemiah take to ensure the safety of the city in Neh 7:2-3?

What specific instructions did Nehemiah give to the men in charge of Jerusalem in verse three?

How is the city of Jerusalem described in verse four?

Why was it important for the people to prove they were Israelites in vv. 4-73?

What motivated Nehemiah to organize the genealogical record of the Israelites in verse five?

What happened to some of the priests who could not find their family records and why, in vv. 64-65?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

10. Read Nehemiah Chapter 8. At what point in Israel's history does this story take place in verse one? Why did the people of Israel assemble at the Water Gate? What did the people want Ezra to read in verse one?

Who was included in the assembly at the Water Gate in verse two?

What attitude did the people of Israel have toward the Book of the Law in Neh 8:3-9; 17?

What did the people do when Ezra opened the Book of the Law in verse five?

May, Year 2

What specific steps did Ezra and the other leaders take to make this event practical for everyone, in vv. 5-8?

How did Ezra and the people of Israel respond to the reading of the Law in verse six?

Why did the leaders declare the day sacred in verse nine? Why were the people of Israel weeping in this verse?

What words of encouragement did Nehemiah offer the people of Israel in verse ten?

How had the events of this day changed the lives of the people of Israel in verse twelve?

Why did the leaders of Israel gather on the second day of the month in verse thirteen?

What specific instructions did the leaders glean from the Book of the Law in vv. 14-15?

How did the people react to the newly discovered instructions in verse sixteen?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

NEHEMIAH 9-13; 1 CHRONICLES 1-3

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 22, Year 2: Neh 9-13; 1 Chr 1-3*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Nehemiah Chapter 9. Why did the Israelites gather together at this time in verse one? How did the Israelites demonstrate their spirit of repentance?

What specific steps did the people take to restore their relationship with the Lord, in vv. 1-3?

What role did the Levites play in this event in vv. 4-5?

What instructions did the Levites offer the people in verse five?

Why did the Levites offer praise to God in vv. 5-15? What were some of the ways God provided for and protected the people of Israel?

On what accomplishments of the Lord did the people focus in vv. 6-15?

What reason did the Levites give to explain why God made a covenant with Abraham, in v. 8? According to the Levites, why did the Lord keep His promises in this verse?

How did the people of Israel view God's laws in verse thirteen?

What mistake did Israel's forefathers make in vv. 16-17?

May, Year 2

How did God demonstrate His love for the people of Israel in vv. 17-25?

How did the Lord reveal His will to the nation of Israel in vv. 20-30?

Why did the Lord allow Israel to be oppressed by their enemies in vv. 26-27?

What request did the Levites present to the Lord in vv. 32-36?

Why did the people of Israel want to make a binding agreement in verse thirty-eight?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

2. Read Nehemiah Chapter 10. Why did the people separate themselves from their neighbors in v. 28?

With what general oath did the people bind themselves in verse twenty-nine?

What were the specifics of the oath between God and the people of Israel in vv. 30-39?

How did the people plan to keep the Sabbath holy in verse thirty-one?

What offerings did the people promise to give to the Lord in vv. 32-33?

Why was it necessary to cast lots in verse thirty-four?

What responsibility did the people take on to ensure that the temple was run properly, in vv. 34-39? Why was it necessary for the people to bring offerings to the temple in these verses? In what ways did the people promise to care for the priests and the temple?

What was significant about the people's offering that demonstrated their commitment to the Lord and their respect for the temple, in vv. 36-38?

How did the people decide what they should tithe in verse thirty-seven?

What lessons do you learn from this chapter, and how can you respond?

3. Read Nehemiah Chapter 11. How did the Jews in chapter eleven decide on who would live in Jerusalem?

What reasons do you think the people might have to not want to live in Jerusalem? See Neh 11:2-3.

What reasons can you think of for these five groups of people to live in Jerusalem, in v. 3?

How many sons of Perez dwelt in Jerusalem, according to verse six?

According to verse sixteen, who had the oversight of the outward business of the house of God?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

4. Read Nehemiah Chapter 12. Name all of the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel to dedication of the walls. See Neh 12:1-7.

How was the wall dedicated in vv. 27-30? Why were the Levites sought out and brought to Jerusalem in these verses?

How did Israel celebrate the completion of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem? See Neh 12:27-47.

May, Year 2

How did the people demonstrate their thankfulness to God for His goodness in Neh 12:43-47.

How long did this reformation last in verse forty-seven?

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

5. Read Nehemiah Chapter 13. What did the Israelites discover when they read the Book of Moses at the celebration, in vv. 1-2?

What did the people do in response to what they discovered in the Book of Moses in verse three?

What evil deed had Eliashib the priest committed? See Neh 13:4-5.

How did Nehemiah react to Eliashib's sin? See Neh 13:7-9.

What had forced the Levites to return to their own fields, in v. 10? Why did Nehemiah rebuke the officials?

How did Nehemiah choose the men to put in charge of the store rooms in verse thirteen?

What request did Nehemiah ask of the Lord for his diligence in keeping Israel accountable? See Neh 13:14-22.

What sins were the people of Israel guilty of in vv. 15-16; 23-24?

What action did Nehemiah take to ensure Israel kept the Sabbath holy in vv. 19-22?

How did Nehemiah react to Israel's sin of intermarriage with foreigners? See Neh 13:23-27.

What lessons do you learn, and how can you respond?

