

A Teacher & a Builder

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DISCUSSION POINTS:

- ❖ What is your normal Bible study or Bible reading routine?
- ❖ What is the main thing you would like to get from Huddle this year? What is your goal? Why are you here?
- ❖ What will you do outside of Huddle in order to accomplish this?
- ❖ Do you have a Study Bible (a Bible with helpful teaching notes in margins and at bottom of pages)? Which one? How do you use it?
- ❖ What is your biggest question about the Bible?
- ❖ Does anyone at the table have any helpful suggestions on improving personal Bible study?

APPLICATION:

- ❖ If you don't regularly read the Bible, make it a goal to read at least one chapter at a time at least 3 times each week (of course you can do more if you'd like to keep going!).
- ❖ If you do regularly read the Bible, determine a way to increase your study and your knowledge during this semester.
- ❖ Determine to take this semester's Huddle teachings outside of Huddle and dig more into the lives & ministries of Ezra and Nehemiah to see what God wants to teach you through them and their experiences.

ON YOUR OWN...

Increase your personal study of the Bible
If you don't have one, acquire a good study Bible

Recommendations:

- ❖ ESV Study Bible (English Standard Version)
- ❖ Life in the Spirit Study Bible (New International Version)
- ❖ The Open Bible (various translations) – good overviews at the beginning of every Biblical book
- ❖ The Amplified Bible (expanding the language of the translation for all possible meanings giving a fuller understanding)
- ❖ Other suggestions from the table members?

SUMMARY:

- ❖ Looking at the Authority of the Bible
- ❖ Seeing where Ezra and Nehemiah and the books that bear their names fall in the overall story of the Bible
- ❖ An encouragement to become a student of the Bible, not just a listener of teachings.
- ❖ James 1:25 – "But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it."

NOTES:

Main points of Israel's history leading up to the time of Ezra & Nehemiah (dates are approximate):

2000 B.C. – Call of Abraham
1700 B.C. – Israel and family go to Egypt to avoid famine
1446 B.C. – Israel delivered from Egypt (Exodus)
1050 B.C. – Saul becomes Israel's first King
1010 B.C. – David becomes King
971 B.C. – Solomon becomes King
586 B.C. – Jerusalem falls to Babylon
538 B.C. – Exiles begin to return to Jerusalem
458 B.C. – More return to Jerusalem with Ezra
445 B.C. – More return to Jerusalem with Nehemiah

Israel was defeated as a nation by Babylon because they fell into great sin in disobedience of God, but God in His mercy already had a plan to restore them. He used Ezra to teach the people the Scriptures and He used Nehemiah to rebuild the wall of the city, providing protection for them as they were being re-established.

It should be our purpose to diligently study the Scriptures so that we can also experience the blessing and protection of God.