

GODLY LEADERSHIP EZRA

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 16 • Ezra 8 • February 2, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Ezra 7** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ Ezra 8:1-23

2. a) According to **V1**, who is listed in **V2-14**? (see also Ezra 7:28)

b) According to **V15**, who was missing?

c) Why do you think this missing group was a concern to Ezra? Read Ezra 8:17 and Numbers 3:3-13 for insight.
3. What two groups of men did Ezra send to Iddo and why in **V16-17**?
4. a) In **V18-20**, how did Iddo respond to the men sent by Ezra?

b) According to **V18**, how did Ezra explain the success of the mission?

c) Where have you recently seen the gracious hand of God in places you were lacking?
5. a) In **V21** and **23**, what did Ezra do and why?

- b) Why do you think we see prayer and fasting so often in Scripture?
6. a) Why do you think Ezra thought it was important that he and the returning exiles humble themselves before God?
- b) What does it mean to you to humble yourself before God?
7. a) In your opinion, what was behind Ezra's thinking when he was "ashamed to ask the king" for protection?
- b) Have you had an experience where you can relate to Ezra's wrestle?

SECTION II: READ EZRA 8:24-36

8. In **V24-28**, who and what were consecrated to the Lord?
9. a) In **V29-30**, what was to be done with the silver and gold and for what purpose?
- b) What do you learn about the treasures that have been entrusted to believers in 2 Corinthians 4:6-7?
10. a) In **V31**, on the way from the Ahava Canal to Jerusalem, what did Ezra and the returning exiles experience?
- b) Describe a time or a moment when you believe that you were protected from your enemies by the hand of God?
11. Re-read **V24-25** in combination with **V33-34**; what timeless truth do you see in the way Ezra handled the donated treasures?

12. In **V35-36**, what two things did the returning exiles do?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

13. What are some of the traits of a Godly leader that were exhibited by Ezra from Ch 8, and explain what he did that exemplified that trait?

14. Share a prayer request for yourself and for the church as a whole that would honor God with the treasures He has entrusted to us.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. a) What do you learn about God's view of humility from these verses?

Psalm 25:9 _____

Proverbs 3:34 _____

Isaiah 66:2 _____

Matthew 18:3-4 _____

Luke 18:9-14 _____

1 Peter 5:5-6 _____

b) Write a truth about humility from the verse that resonates most with you.

2. What would you say is the world's view on humility?

3. Do you believe that humility is a trait that can be learned? Explain your answer.

