

# 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)*

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### Lesson 17 • Ezra 9 & 10 • February 9, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Ezra 8** has been helped to you?

#### **SECTION I: READ Ezra 9:1-4**

2. a) In **V1-2**, what did the leaders report to Ezra about the people of Israel?  
  
b) Read Deuteronomy 18:9-13. List some of the detestable practices of the Canaanites?
3. God warned the Israelites about the Canaanites in Deuteronomy 7:1-6.
  - a) What did he require of the Israelites according to these verses?  
  
b) What would be the outcome if they did not heed God's warnings?
4. The Israelites were blending in with the surrounding cultures by intermarrying. How are you being tempted to blend in with your surrounding culture?
5. a) In **V3-4**, how did Ezra respond to this news about the Israelites unfaithfulness?  
  
b) What do you think it means to "tremble at the words of God" in **V4**?  
  
c) Describe your attitude towards the words of God. Be honest.

**SECTION II: READ Ezra 9:5-15**

6. In **V5-6**, what was Ezra's prayer posture, and what attitude does that posture reveal?
  
7. In **V7**, what happened to the Israelites because of their sin?
  
8. According to **V8-9 & 13**, describe how God had been gracious to the Israelites?
  
9. In **V14-15**, what attributes of God and what truth about the Israelites does Ezra acknowledge?
  
10. In **V6, 7, 13 & 15**, why do you think Ezra identified the sin of the people of Israel as "our sin" and "our guilt" rather than "their sin" and "their guilt"?
  
11. How does your acknowledgement of the righteousness of God lead you to a greater appreciation of all He has done for you?

**SECTION III: READ EZRA 10**

12. From **V1**, describe what the Israelites saw and how they reacted.
  
13. a) In **V2-4**, describe the substance of Shecaniah's confession? What did he call Ezra and his people to do?  
  
b) Read **V5-6**; why do you think Ezra continued to mourn even after the people took the oath?
  
14. a) In **V7-8**, what were the requirements of the proclamation and the consequences of failing to comply?  
  
b) In **V9-11**, summarize what happened and what Ezra said.

15. a) In **V12-15**, what were the different responses to Ezra?
- b) What aspect of God were they aware of as they faced their sin?
16. Where is God calling you to confess your disobedience to His clear commands, and what measures will you take toward obedience?
17. a) What different groups are listed in **V18-44**?
- b) What do you learn about Ezra's Godly leadership given this diverse list?
18. Re-read **V3, 10-11 & 19**; what do you think is God's purpose in calling them to do such a hard thing?
19. In view of Ezra 9 & 10, begin to formulate your own prayer of confession.

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**DIGGING DEEPER**

There was a clear call for confession in Ezra 9 and 10.

1. What do you learn about sin and the need for repentance from these verses?

Leviticus 5:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 26: 40-45 \_\_\_\_\_

2. a) Read Psalm 32:1-5. Contrast David's state before and after confession.

b) Have you ever experienced this? If so, describe.

3. Read I John 1:8-9 and write a truth about confession:

