

## 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 3 • Ezra 4 • October 6, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Ezra 3** has helped you?

#### SECTION I: READ EZRA 4:1-5

2. a) In **V1-2**, how did Israel's enemies respond when they heard the exiles were rebuilding the temple?  
b) What did they say in their appeal to Zerubbabel and others to convince them?
3. a) How did the Israelites respond to their enemies' proposition?  
b) Why do you think the Israelites refused their help? Read Deuteronomy 9:5 and 12:29-31.
4. Share a time when you had to separate from those around you who were not living in ways that pleased the Lord? Was that easy or difficult to do and why?
5. In **V4-5**, what was the enemies' reaction to the rejection by the Israelites?
6. a) How long did their efforts to oppose the Israelites last? (see WBS lesson timeline)  
b) When has your attempt to separate from ungodly influences turned into a prolonged battle?

7. As you look around you, where does it appear that the enemies of God are winning? What tactics are they using?

### SECTION II: READ EZRA 4:6-16

8. In **V6**, who is the King, and during his reign what action did the enemies of Israel take to thwart the exiles?
9. How does **V7** indicate that the opposition continued?
10. a) Who wrote the letter to King Artaxerxes, and where were the writers from according to **V8-11**?
- b) How was Jerusalem described in the letter? (see **V12,15**)
11. a) In **V13-15**, what did the letter threaten would happen if the walls of Jerusalem were restored?
- b) What made their accusations seem more convincing according to **V14-16**?
12. a) How has a false impression that you had about someone affected how you treated that person? Was there some truth woven into the false impression?
- b) Have you ever suffered from false or misleading accusations? How did you respond?

### SECTION III: RE-READ EZRA 4:17-24

13. a) Summarize the king's reply in **V19-20**.

b) What was his decision, and how was it carried out?

c) How long was the work stopped? (see timeline again)

14. a) In what situation does God's work in your life seem to be at a standstill?

b) In what areas of your life has God called you to stand firm in the face of opposition?

15. Write a prayer request about the specifics of the opposition confronting you.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

*Wherever God is on the move, the enemy is on the move too....*

*Find encouragement from two examples in Scripture where a huge enemy was defeated.*

1. Read 1 Samuel 17:45-50. Young David faced the giant Goliath and defeated him. What do you learn from David about facing your enemies?

2. Read 2 Chronicles 20:5-19. With a vast army approaching, Jehoshaphat, the son of David, prays (**V5-12**) and then the Lord responds to him (**V14-19**).

a) What truths about God are included in the prayer of Jehoshaphat?

b) What do you find encouraging in God's words in **V14-19** as you face the opposition in your life?

