1. **The Calling of Ezra and Nehemiah**
   a) What important lessons can we learn from God’s call to Ezra? Ezra 7:1-10
   b) What important lessons can we learn from God’s call to Nehemiah? Nehemiah 1:1-11
   c) What did these two leaders have in common?

2. **God’s Timing**
   a) What was the significance of the timing of God’s call to Ezra in 457 BC? Daniel 9:24-27
   b) What happened after 69 weeks of years, or 483 years after 457 BC in AD 27? Luke 3:1-6, 21-22
   c) What happened in the midst of the last 7 years, in the Spring of AD 31 whereby Messiah would “bring an end to sacrifice and offering”? Acts 7:54-8:3
   d) What event occurred at the conclusion of the 490 years in AD 34? Daniel 8:13-14, 26-27
   e) According to Daniel, the 70 weeks, or 490 years, were determined or cut off for the Jewish people. What were they cut off from? See Daniel 8:13-14, 26-27

3. **Our calling from God**
   a) Not all are called, like Ezra and Nehemiah, to lead God’s people out of captivity, but we all receive a call from God according to His plan for our lives. Romans 8:28-30

   b) What special call did these individuals receive from God?
      i) John the Baptist
      ii) Mary
      iii) Timothy
   c) What did Jesus mean when He said, “Many are called by few are chosen”? Matthew 22:14

4. **Our freedom to accept or reject God’s call**
   a) Read the story of God’s call of Moses. Exodus 3:1-10, 11-12, 13-14, 4:1, 2-7, 10, 11-12, 13, 14-17. What can we learn from this extended interaction between the LORD and Moses about God’s call and our freedom to accept or reject His call?
   b) What lessons about responding to God’s call can we learn from the life of Jonah?
   c) What stories in the ministry of Jesus illustrate our freedom either to accept or reject God’s call on our lives?
      ii) The rich young ruler – Matthew 19:16-22
      iv) Other stories?
   d) Share your story of the time you sensed God calling you to a special ministry for Him.
   e) How does God respond if we reject His call?