

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"?
- d) What event occurred at the conclusion of the 490 years in AD 34? Acts 7:54-8:3
- 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?
 - i) Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10
 - ii) The rich young ruler – Matthew 19:16-22
 - iii) Matthew – Matthew 9:9, Luke 5:29-32
 - 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?

