

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, January 23, 2022 (Epiphany 3)

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Discussion Starters

1. Why were the people gathered together in this assembly? (See Leviticus 23;24 and Number 29:1-6)? Why did they gather in the public square instead of the Temple?
2. How do the people respond to the Book of the Law of Moses? How do you account for this response?
3. Why did the people need help in understanding the meaning of what was being read to them?
4. Ezra came to Jerusalem 13 years prior to the events of this chapter. Why did it take him so long to be able to fully proclaim the truth of God's Word?
5. What are some ways in which the public reading of Scripture has been especially meaningful to you?

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Discussion Starters

1. In what way(s) is verse 12 a good illustration of the truth proclaimed in verse 13?
2. What might be an example of a "weaker" part of the Body of Christ (v. 22)? Of a "less honorable" part (v. 23)? Of a "presentable" part (v. 24)?
3. What does this passage teach about the role of each Christian in a local church? What does it say about our dependence on other Christians? What are some practical illustrations of the potential impact on a church if Christians do not use their spiritual gifts as God intended?
4. Which of the spiritual gifts do you have? Which ones can you identify at work in the lives of others in the church?

Luke 4:14-21

Discussion Starters

1. According to this passage, what is the mission of Jesus? How did Jesus fulfill this mission? How does a local church today fulfill that mission?
2. What expectations or concerns do you think Jesus raised in the hearts of his hometown with his proclamation in verse 21?
3. What do you think the people thought they would hear as they prepared to listen to Jesus? Why do they become angry?
4. What is the point of the Old Testament illustrations used by Jesus? How would those illustrations challenge the Jewish concept of "Messiah?"

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?