

Preparation & Even More

Personal Bible Study for the Weekend of December 15th, 2013
(To Be Available Weekend of December 8th, 2013)

God Restores His People

Monday & Tuesday

1. The Promise of God – Read Jeremiah 29:10-14

- *Many of God's promises are offered to a group of people, not merely individuals. Why do you think we so often interpret them as for us individually?*
- *Look at the context of Jeremiah 29:10-14. What does Jeremiah 29:11 refer to? Is it what we commonly think of, or is it something more specific?*
- *What kinds of things is your heart drawn toward? What pulls you away from wholehearted devotion to God?*
- *How do you respond to God's discipline in your life? Do you view it as something God does for your good?*

Wednesday & Thursday

The following articles relate to this lesson and are contained in this packet for your reading. You do not have to read all these articles in one sitting, but intersperse them throughout the week's study.

- *"From Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus II"*
- *"Cyrus"*
- *"Babylonian and Persian Kings"*
- *"Postexilic Hebrew Worship Practices"*

2. The Return of God's People – Read Ezra 1:1-5

- *Do you have trouble taking God at His Word? When things look bleak, do you find it difficult to lean on what He's said? If so, why?*
- *Cyrus recognized that God had done great things for him. What things have you accomplished that you've*

never given God credit for but kept the credit for yourself?

- *Do you have a hunger for God's Word? If not, why?*
- *How do you respond to the Word when it is read, taught, or preached?*
- *If you see evidence that your passion and dedication to learn from God's Word do not measure up to what they should, ask Him to help you prioritize time in His word.*
- *Compare and contrast the worship attitude reflected in Nehemiah 8:1-6 to the typical worship attitude in your church services. What could you and your church learn from Israel? What could they have learned from you?*

Friday & Saturday

3. The Response of God's People – Read Nehemiah 8:1-12

- *How would you react to a sermon that lasted from daybreak until noon?*
- *Do you see why we usually stand for the reading of our Gospel?*
- *Have you ever cried over your wrong-doing? Why or why not?*

Pray for Pastor Jim's Message weekend of December 1st