

September 27 Answers

- 1) Lessons from Jerusalem's revival. First, the people got together and asked Ezra to read aloud from the Book of the **Law** of Moses. This teaches us the importance of a **hunger** for God's Word. Second, Ezra and the Levites "gave the **sense**, so that the people **understood** the reading" (Neh 8:8). This teaches us the importance of sound **exegesis**, for interpretation leads to **application**. Third, the people "**wept** as they heard the words of the Law" (Neh 8:9). This shows us that true faith demonstrates itself by genuine **sorrow** for sin (2 Cor 7:10). Fourth, Ezra and Nehemiah urged the people to put aside their grief and **honor** the Feast of Trumpets as God intended (cf. Lev 23:24–25). The people obeyed, which **confirmed** their faith and repentance. This teaches us that there is a time for rejoicing and a time for sorrow, and that holiness is best expressed by **happiness** in God. Fifth, the leaders of the people, together with the priests and Levites, came to Ezra in order to **study** the words of the Law. Their study was rewarded by the discovery of the Feast of **Tabernacles**. This teaches us the importance of reading **everything** in Scripture. If we don't regularly read the entirety of God's Word, we'll end up missing out on something God wants us to know. Sixth, Ezra read the Law to the whole assembly each **day** during the Feast of Tabernacles. This teaches us that godliness is marked by an insatiable appetite to learn **more** of God's Word. Bible reading must be a part of our daily lives!