

- I. Biblical Keys to Good _____ . (Nehemiah 8:5-8)
- A. Good preachers preach _____ from the _____.
(Nehemiah 8:5, 8a; II Timothy 3:16; I Timothy 4:13; John 17:17)
 - B. Good preachers preach _____. (Nehemiah 8:8b; Colossians 4:4; Ephesians 6:10)
 - C. Good preachers preach so that we _____ the _____ of the passage.
(Nehemiah 8:8c)
 - D. Good preachers preach with the goal _____ .
(Nehemiah 8:6; I Corinthians 10:31)
 - E. Good preachers seek to raise up a _____ of _____.
(Nehemiah 8:4; Mark 6:7-12)
- II. Biblical Keys to Good _____. (Nehemiah 8:1-6)
- A. Good listeners are _____ to hear the Word of God. (Nehemiah 8:1; Acts 17:11)
 - B. Good listeners eagerly seek out _____ . (Nehemiah 8:1)
 - C. Good listeners include _____ who are _____ of _____.
(Nehemiah 8:2)
 - D. Good listeners are more concerned with _____ than _____.
(Nehemiah 8:3; Acts 20:7-12; John 4:39-42)
 - E. Good listeners have _____ for the Word of God. (Nehemiah 8:5)
 - F. Good listeners _____ , not just _____ .
_____. (Nehemiah 8:6)
- III. Biblical Keys to Good _____ (Nehemiah 8:7; Acts 2:42-47)
- A. Good retainers seek to _____ in _____ what
was _____ in the large group preaching service.



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Nehemiah 8:1-8

1. What does this passage reveal about God's intent for preaching as the *public ministry of His Word*? How might you prepare your own heart each week to receive the preached Word as the voice of God, not just human commentary? (I Thessalonians 2:13)
2. How does Ezra's example model Christ's own ministry of "opening the Scriptures" (Luke 24:27)? In what ways should we desire for Scripture-driven exposition – in our personal and family devotional times, in our church?
3. Why does clarity matter theologically - what does it say about God's desire to be known and understood (Deuteronomy 29 : 29)? How does this verse correct the idea that mystery or obscurity equals depth?
4. How does "giving the sense" embody the Spirit's illuminating work in preaching (I Corinthians 2:12-13)? How can believers practice "giving the sense" when discipling others - translating truth into language hearts can grasp?
5. When you hear a sermon, what questions help you discern whether you have truly *understood the text* or merely *enjoyed the talk*?
6. How does Ezra's blessing of the Lord re-center preaching as an act of worship rather than performance? What would it look like in your own ministry context if the question after every sermon were not, "Was that engaging for me?" but, "How can I grasp that message from the Lord?"
7. What does the presence of multiple preachers alongside Ezra teach about God's preference for *shared ministry* over solitary celebrity? How can churches intentionally train and platform new voices without diminishing respect for the pulpit?

8. Who might God be calling you to mentor, encourage, or release into greater ministry responsibility?
9. Why does Scripture connect *receptivity* with *spiritual nobility* (Acts 17:11)? How might families cultivate this eagerness together - involving children "who can understand" in worship and discussion?
10. What practical steps can you take to listen eagerly - preparing your heart before the sermon and engaging attentively during it?
11. What does the Levites' role in helping the people understand teach us about God's design for communal learning? How might revisiting Scripture in community turn intellectual knowledge into transformation?
12. How does the pattern of *large-group proclamation* followed by *small-group digestion* reflect the rhythm of revelation and discipleship throughout Scripture? How could your small group or ministry better "digest together" what is preached on Sundays?