

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Ezra 9-10

Heartfelt Prayer

Getting Started

What does it mean to intercede on behalf of another?

Digging In

1. **Read Ezra 9:1-2.** About 4 months have passed since Ezra and his party arrived in Jerusalem from Babylon. In vss. 1-2, what problem was brought to Ezra's attention?
2. Why was this such a serious issue?
3. **Read Ezra 9:3-4.** What was Ezra's initial response?
4. **Read Ezra 9:5-15.** How did Ezra identify with those who had fallen into sin?
5. How did he intercede for them?
6. How does this compare with Paul's concern for Israel? (Romans 9:1-3; 10:1)
7. **Read Ezra 10:1-2.** How did the people respond to Ezra's prayer on their behalf?
8. **Read Ezra 10:3-4.** What course of action did they recommend?
9. **Read Ezra 10:5-11.** How did Ezra instruct and exhort the people?
10. How does the people's response exhibit genuine repentance?



Getting Personal

- What are some ways in which we sometimes allow the world to squeeze us into its mold, resulting in spiritual idolatry?
- Ask God to reveal areas of worldly compromise in your life.
- How does Ezra contrast with Jonah in his attitude toward those who have sinned? With whom do you most naturally identify?
- How can we be more like Ezra than Jonah?
- How will you make compassionate intercession for America a regular part of your life?