

THE STORY PERSONAL DEVOTIONS CHAPTER 21

Journal your answers as you read through the chapter this week. You may read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

Day One

1. Ezra “devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel,” (p. 292). How has your own devotion to the study of God’s word changed since the beginning of *The Story*?
2. Review Ezra’s praise prayer (p. 294). Compare it to Prov. 21:1. How might this help inform your view of our country’s newest government leaders?

Day Two

1. Why did Nehemiah and Zerubbabel respond differently to opposition? (Review p. 265-267.) How are you most likely to respond when you face opposition?
2. Compare Nehemiah’s self-defense (p. 297-299) with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 5:38-45. How do you reconcile the differences?
3. What characteristics make Nehemiah a good leader? Which characteristic do you most need in your life?

Day Three

1. Nehemiah chose Hananiah as a co-leader of Jerusalem “*because he was trust-worthy and feared God more than most people do,*” (p. 300). How would you benefit from surrounding yourself with “Hananiahs?”
2. Compare Malachi’s message on marriage with 1 Pet. 3:7. What is marital unfaithfulness a symptom of? What warnings might you give to a friend who treats a spouse poorly?