

Media



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Intro

Start your session by having a volunteer read Nehemiah 8:1-10 out loud and then immediately show the *Bible Background Video*. If you really want to get into the spirit of the Scripture, maybe have someone explaining the passage as it is being read just as the Levites in the passage.

✔ Dedication

Open the discussion time together by watching the "Reading a Book" video by Julian Smith.

- What are the books that have made you borderline anti-social? Are there other hobbies that can do that to you?
- What's the difference between the ridiculous music video we just saw and the reading in Nehemiah?
- How well do you think people today would do with listening to someone read for 6 hours on end?
- What are some things you would absolutely do for an entire day non-stop?
- Do you think in general that we think of reading the Bible as private or communal? Why?

✔ Explanation

Watch the clip from Life is Beautiful called "Creative Translation."

- If no one has seen the film be ready to explain that they are in a concentration camp and the translator's entire purpose is to keep this boy from understanding the horror of what they're living through.
- What do you suppose the other men in the room were thinking as the translator was speaking?
- What do you think the other prisoners said or did after the clip ends?

- What's the importance of good translation as it pertains to the Bible?
- Assuming we don't speak the original languages that the Bible is written in, what translators do we rely on? (Bible translation committees, teachers, pastors, commentaries)
- In what ways are we still translating even if we're reading in English?

✔ Illustrated Story

Finally watch the clip "Illustrated Story" from Amistad.

- How much of the Gospel message do these two men grasp even without the ability to read English?
- How might their understanding be deepened by knowing how to read the words between the pictures?
- In what ways are we as modern Americans much like the two men in the clip?
- How might we deepen our understanding of Scripture?
- What 'Levites' do you regularly rely on? In other words, who do you trust as a teacher of Scripture?
- What effects can encountering the Bible have on us?
- How can we be better teachers for the next generation of listeners?

✔ Outro

End your session by inviting your group to all pray aloud their own individual prayers at the same time. It will be loud and almost unintelligible, but it will be a symbol of the unity in your group even as you speak and hear and understand different aspects of the Gospel.

By Rory Naeve