



Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Learn Like You Mean It!

Introduction: The early disciples were actively engaged in living out their faith. They were devoted to the apostles' teaching and committed to carry out the message of hope to the world. We often think that learning is just study. The church often looks at discipleship as taking a course. The Bible, on the other hand, speaks of discipleship as obeying God's word. Will you learn like you mean it?

Text: Ezra 7:1-10

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever been part of a team and was handed a playbook? What did you do to learn the plays? What was the purpose of the playbook?
2. Read Acts 2:42—What does the word devoted mean? If the early disciples were devoted to the apostle's teaching, then what does that mean? How would you know if someone was devoted to the teachings of scripture?
3. Read Ezra 7:10 What were the three commitments in the heart of Ezra?
4. Ezra set his heart to study the law of God. He loved God's word and valued God's instructions. What does it mean to study God's word? How often do you read your Bible? How can you develop a habit of reading and studying God's word?
5. Read Psalm 119:9-10. What is the similarity of the Psalmist and Ezra?
6. The first step in learning like you mean it is to study God's word (or—get it in). Make a plan to read your Bible daily.
7. The second commitment that Ezra made was to "do it." He not only desired to study God's law, but he also had the desire to obey God's law. Read John 13:12-17, Luke 11:28, Matthew 7:24-27. How does Ezra's heart match Jesus' words?
8. At the beginning of a football season, the players are given a playbook. The purpose of the playbook is to run an offense or defense. The players must study the playbook, but must also execute the playbook. If the Bible is the playbook of life, then how does this relate? Write/Discuss.
9. The third commitment that Ezra made was to teach God's law to others. Every teacher knows that the teacher learns more than the student. When you invest in the lives of others, you will be blessed. The goal of the Christian faith should not be to just absorb it all, but to allow it to flow out to others. Who could you mentor? How can you teach others more about Christ? Who needs to have a relationship with Christ? How will you teach someone else on how to follow Christ?

Think About it:

What good will it do if you know a lot of information about the Bible, but not have a life transformed by the Bible? God has given us the playbook of life. If we never read it, we will never know what to do. You have to get it in, so you can get it out, and then get it in to others. How well are you executing the plays of life?

Moving Forward:

Read your Bible every day and commit to doing what it says. View God's word as your playbook and execute the game plan. When you read the Bible, have your heart set to learn it in such a way that it impacts your life. Keep a journal of what God is saying to you through His word and then write about how you followed His voice.

