

# Connection Group Participant Guide

July 4, 2021

## Zechariah 8

### Introduction

God answers the question that the people of Bethel asked in chapter 7 – “should we continue to fast?” It was a two-fold answer, though, a present and a future one. For the present, God pointed out in chapter 7, as we discussed last week, the sham in the fastings, the need for reality and sincerity, the vivid warning from the past sins of the forefathers, and the imperative demand for righteousness in all the relationships of life. With reference to the future, Zechariah was directed to point to a day of glorious promise for Israel when the Lord would dwell in her midst, when prosperity and peace would characterize her land, when her dispersed ones would be gathered back to their homeland, and ... when her fasts would be turned into feasts, the glory of the Lord being so manifest in Israel that all the nations would be drawn to Him through His people.

### Highlight

Zechariah foresees countless benefits concerning Jerusalem getting back together with her Lord. Can you find 10 of them? What is the point of the statements made in these verses regarding Jerusalem (Zech. 8:4-5)?

### Explain

What moral force is lent to each blessing by the constant refrain, “the Lord (Almighty) says”? What will it take to restore the people and give these blessings (Zech. 8:14-17)?

### Apply

Take a few minutes to read aloud the Scripture from Zechariah 7:1-14, 8:18-19, Matthew 9:12-13. What verses or ideas stand out to you from these passages? What questions do you have? What “next step” are you considering as a result of your interaction with God’s Word?

### Respond in Prayer

Read through Revelation 21:9-27 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

