



## 1. Opening

### **Purpose for Digs and Prayer (1 min)**

Digs gather to study, pray, and apply the Word of God to our lives. Our hope is that we would increase in our love for God, love for one another, and tell others about Him (Matt 22:37-40; Matt 28:19-20).

### **Weekly Christian Formation (5 min)**

**Question 43\*** What is baptism?

**Answer:** Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

**Scripture Reference:** Matthew 28:19

What does this mean? How does it impact our lives?

### **Recap (5 min)**

Recap the last time your Dig Group gathered. How did you apply God's Word over the last week(s)?

## 2. Bible Study May 17<sup>th</sup> (30-45 minutes)

\*Read the passage aloud together.

\*Pray for God's wisdom to rightly understand the passage.

Scripture Reference: Ezra 5

1. Recap the Israelites' return from exile. How did God provide for His people? What trials do they face as they try to reestablish worship in Jerusalem?

2. In Ezra 4, the Israelites are discouraged and quit building the temple for over 10 years. What do you think the Jews were doing during that time period?

3. How did God bring His people to repentance in Ezra 5:1? (cf Haggai 1:1-11)

4. In Ezra 5:2, it states that the prophets were "with them, supporting them". How did they support them? (cf Haggai 1:13-15; 2:4)

5. Why was it so significant that the prophets supported the Jews?

6. In Ezra 5:3-4, the Jews experience another wave of opposition. How do they respond?

7. What does Ezra 5:5 tell us about why they Israelites were able to continue the work?

8. What is the Book of Ezra telling the reader about the pathway to establishing worship? Where does Ezra point us to trust as we worship in obedience?

9. The pathway to establishing worship is not an exact formulated process. There are trials and opposition, but God displays His providence to make a way for His people. How does this shape the way you follow God in obedience?

## 3. Confession and Prayer (30-45 minutes)

\*Prayer: Reserve plenty of time to pray for one another.

\*Prayer Challenge: Pray that God would provide opportunities for you to share Christ with people. Pray that you would make the most of every opportunity (Col 4:2-6).

\*\*Weekly Christian Formation Questions are taken from the New City Catechism.

