

# Discussion Questions

Date: May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Preacher: Jordan Ledbetter

## Sermon Outline

## Talking Points

### *From Fasting to Feasting | Zechariah 1:1-6, 7, 8*

#### **God Calls for His People to Return to Him: (1:1-6 - 7:1-14)**

- Returning to God required turning away from the sins that plagued their ancestors. (1:1-6, 7:11-14)
- Returning to God required listening to Him and pursuing justice and compassion. (7:1-10)
- **Question:** Is there anything in your life that God is calling you to turn from in order to more fully pursue Him? Where have you confused strict religious observance with righteous, godly living?

#### **God's Return will Bring His Blessing to His people and the World: (8:1-23)**

- God's return will bring security, longevity, and abundance to His people in their land. (8:1-19)
- God's return allows Israel to be a blessing to the nations. (8:20-23)
- **Question:** Have there been times in your life when you were more aware of God's presence while living in Spirit-filled obedience? How can living according to God's ways bless those around you?

**Bottom Line: God's kingdom and its blessings will pervade wherever His people live in obedience to His ways.**

\* Why is it easy for modern churches, small groups, or ministries to get caught up in prioritizing size, attendance, or achievements, rather than heart transformation of individuals? How is this behavior similar to that of the ancestors mentioned in chapter 1?

\* We can point out the fact how crazy and evil it was for God's people to create and bow down to a golden calf, yet it can be hard to identify the repetitive idolatry in our own lives. Why do you think this is?

\* Be honest, if God were to ask you, "Are you attending church, serving, or praying for Me, or are you doing it for your own comfort and reputation?" How would you answer?

What does repentance look like for the one who is doing these things for self comfort or reputation?

\* Look at the imagery in verses 1-19 of chapter 8. How does this picture challenge or clarify your view on peace and restoration?

\* How does knowing and believing that God's ultimate restoration is coming change the way you live your life today? Where in your life do you feel like you have been too focused on self-pity or mourning what has happened, rather than looking forward to this future restoration?

\* If the people in your workplace, neighborhood, or family looked at your life, would they see clear evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence? What barriers or reservations are in your life that might be clouding that evidence? What steps of obedience can you take this week to reduce or even destroy these barriers?

## Understanding Scripture

### 1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

### 2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

### 3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

### 4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

## Prayer Requests

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