



Ezra 3

Looking back:

Care

Have you ever been in a “rebuilding” phase of your life? Describe how that felt. Did you feel God’s presence during that time?

Loving Accountability

What obstacles did you face in practicing **time alone with Jesus** this week? What increased your faith to try it? Share any thoughts or impressions that came from that time with the Lord.

Looking up:

Practice

With the prompting of the Holy Spirit, have someone tell the story of Ezra 3 in their own words.

Learning to obey Jesus

1. **Read Ezra 3:1-4, Exodus 20:22-24, Deuteronomy 11:4-7, Daniel 9:20-25, Psalm 27.**

- What lessons did the Israelites learn about God while in exile? How did they invoke the Law of Moses? Were the Israelites afraid? How did they deal with fear?
- What prophecy was fulfilled post exile? What did the prophet say would happen, and did he give a warning?
- Why did the people assemble and make sacrifices before doing any more rebuilding? What does this passage teach us about unity within the church?

2. **Read Ezra 3 vs. 8-11, 1 Chronicles 6:31-32, 37-43, 2 Chronicles 7:1-10.**

- Worship was the Israelites’ most important priority. Can you picture the scene with trumpets and cymbals? How did King David prescribe musical worship for the Lord? How do you feel when you worship God through music?
- What do we learn about worship in these passages? How does God respond?
- What significance does praise and godly celebration have in this time of rebuilding our church?

3. **Read Ezra 3 vs. 12-13, Joshua 6:5, Haggai 2:3-9, 14-23, Proverbs 13:12.**

- Why were there sounds of both weeping and joy? Why do you think both emotions were present during the laying of the foundation of the Temple? Why do you think it's significant that the noise could be heard from so far away?
- How does the Proverb reflect the older generation's weeping? Why is it significant that the older priests and Levites could express their sadness before the Lord? Have you ever waited on a miracle that didn't seem to come?
- How do the Israelites sustain the work God asked them to do? What does Haggai prophesy over Israel? What hope can be found in these passages?

Looking forward:

Spiritual Growth Assignment

What are some practical ways we can foster unity within our church — even when we don't feel like it? See if your group can come up with a few goals to build unity and cohesiveness among God's people.

Spiritual Discipline: Worship: how have you been worshiping the Lord lately? Does the music you listen to and the social media you consume glorify Him?

Ask Jesus how He would like to see you use your gifts in worship. Even if you don't consider yourself "musical", the Lord loves to hear your voice singing praises, whether off-key or not.

Let's change up our worship life this week. Choose a few worship songs and sing them to Jesus when you are alone with Him, and see how he moves your heart. Share with your group the songs you listened to this week, and keep a record in your prayer journal.

Prayer

Oh Lord, You are here, moving in our midst. We worship You. We love you Lord. We want more of you Jesus. Lead us in a great orchestra that will rise to You like incense. As we lift our hearts and voices to You this week, hear our praise, and come very near to us. Turn our lives around, let us be a church that reflects Your Kingdom, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

Have questions about the sermon?
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