

EZRA

Week 4 - Fighting Through Our Spiritual Battles

Description

Saying 'yes' to Jesus rarely makes life easier. Oftentimes, it means we will face uphill challenges, alluring temptations, and fierce opposition to what God is calling us to do. As we continue our series on Ezra this Sunday, we'll discover this was exactly what God's people faced as they sought to rebuild the house of the Lord. In part four of this series, we'll learn how to fight through the spiritual battles we encounter, and how we can finish the work God has given us to do. We encourage you to read Ezra 4-6 in preparation, and we hope to see you Sunday.

November, 6

Small Group Questions

1. The big challenge of our series on Ezra is this: *Rebuilding begins by recognizing and responding to the stirring of the Lord*. What have you sensed God stirring you to do as we've studied Ezra?
2. Read Ezra 4:1-5. Why was it so essential that God's leaders not allow "outside help" in their rebuilding efforts? In what ways do we face "adversaries" like these today?
3. Read Ephesians 6:12. Who does Paul say our spiritual enemies are and aren't? How do we potentially misidentify the enemies in our world?
4. Read Ezra 4:4-5, 24. Given the outside pressure, God's people halt the rebuilding project for 16 years. What is something God has called you to do that you didn't finish—or perhaps even start? What work might he be calling you to pick back up?
5. Haggai is a "minor prophet" who God used to stir the people's hearts to continue rebuilding the house of the Lord. Read Haggai 1. How might this message speak to American Christians today?
6. Read Haggai 2:4-5. How might God be calling you to live more courageously and fearlessly in our day and age.
7. Close by praying for one another, our church, our country, and our world.