

EZRA

Week 3 - Restoring Worship

Description

How do you connect with God in worship? What draws you closer to him? This week, as we continue our series on the Old Testament book of Ezra, we'll learn how God's people rebuilt their lives and community around the authentic worship of God. Discover why worship strengthens our souls, heightens our joy, and deepens our relationship with God.

October 30, 2022

Small Group Questions

1. How have you connected with God through worship services with others? Is there a recent time you felt especially close to him? How would you like to connect with God, or connect with him more?
2. According to Dallas Willard, "In worship we engage ourselves with, dwell upon, and express the greatness, beauty, and goodness of God through thought and the use of words, rituals and symbols." How does this reflect the way people today approach the worship of God? What might we need to change in how we view worship?
3. Read Ezra 3:1-6. What do we learn about worship as God's people seek to restore worship in Jerusalem?
4. Ezra 3:4 says, "And they kept the Festival of Booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day." The Festival of Booths, or Tabernacles, was an annual week of celebration where God's people camped out in small huts to recall their temporary living quarters prior to moving into the Promised Land. It was a ritual for them to worship God by remembering their story—rather, his story in their lives. Why are rituals of worship like this so important to the faith community and our own faith individually?
5. Read Ezra 3:7-13. What were the different reactions to the setting of the foundation of the temple? Do you think some of the people were right to react with lament to the size of the foundation or not?
6. How can the practice of lament draw us closer to God? Can too much lamenting be a hindrance rather than a help to our relationship with God?
7. Based on this text and discussion, how might God be inviting you to grow as an authentic worshipper of God?
8. Close by praying for one another.