

Small Group Questions
Sunday, November 13th
Ezra

1. Over the course of your faith, in what different ways have you gone about studying Scripture? How have you found studying Scripture enjoyable or life-giving? How have you found it difficult or frustrating?
2. Since the completion of the rebuilding of the temple in Ezra 6, 60 years have elapsed. In Ezra 7, we finally meet the author of this book. Read Ezra 7. What phrases or ideas from this text particularly strike you and why? What kind of person and leader was Ezra?
3. One of the most well-known verses in Ezra is 7:10, which says, “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to do it and to teach the statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Given Ezra’s contagious dedication to the Scripture, God’s people started to become known as “people of the book.” Just as studying Scripture was so vital in Ezra’s day, why is it so essential for our day and age as well?
4. The three key components of Ezra 7:10 are *studying*, *obeying* and *teaching* Scripture. Let’s focus on each of these key practices in Ezra’s life. First, from the sermon you heard, and your own experience, how might you go about *studying* God’s Word? What might be God’s invitation to you to study Scripture in this season of your life and faith?
5. Secondly, Ezra focused on *obeying* God’s Word. How might you grow in putting into practice everything the Bible says?
6. A key principle for applying God’s Word is the principle of *indirection*. Rather than *trying* to do all that God commands, we should *train* ourselves to become the kind of people who would easily and routinely do everything Jesus said. What would your life look like—in rhythm and habit—if you were the kind of person who more easily and routinely did everything God commanded?
7. Lastly, Ezra *taught* the Word of God. What have been opportunities you’ve been given to teach Scripture? What have you found effective in teaching and sharing God’s Word? How might God be stirring you to teach his Word in this season of your life?
8. Close by praying for one another, our church, our community, our country and our world.