

GOSPEL COMMUNITY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For the Week of November 8, 2026

REVIEW

1. Read back through the sermon text (Ezra 8) and look over your sermon notes.
   a. What was something that caught your attention, challenged, encouraged, or confused you?
   b. What point or idea have you remembered most since hearing Sunday's message?
   c. What's a word, phrase, or episode in this passage that stands out to you? Why?

GOD'S STORY

2. Read Ezra 8:31–36. How does God answer the prayers of his people? How do the exiles respond when they arrive in Jerusalem?
3. When you feel anxious or uncertain about something, what's your natural first response? Do you tend to make a plan, seek advice, try to take control, pray, or something else?
4. Steve Fuller says, "Whatever I trust the most to satisfy me, I desire the most. And whatever I desire the most, I obey." What do your desires, priorities, and daily decisions reveal about what you're actually trusting to satisfy you?
5. Where in your life are you particularly conscious of your limitations or lack of resources? How might trusting God's provision change the way you approach those needs?
6. Pastor Ryan stated that God's goodness is often evident in ordinary things. What ordinary evidences of God's kindness and provision might you be overlooking in your life right now?
7. Your circumstances are not a reliable measure of God's favor. When you experience suffering or disappointment, are you tempted to question God's goodness toward you? How does the cross of Christ give you confidence that God's hand is upon you for good?

DIGGING DEEPER

8. Read Matthew 6:19–34. How does Jesus' teaching challenge the things we naturally trust to satisfy and protect us? What does it practically mean to seek first the kingdom of God?
9. Read Nehemiah 2:1–9. Unlike Ezra, Nehemiah accepted an armed escort from the king. How can both men serve as examples of faithful dependence upon God? What does this teach us about the difference between trusting God and prescribing a particular method of exercising faith?

GUIDE FOR DISCIPLESHIP HUDDLES

1. REPENT & BELIEVE

Ask:

- What desires and/or lies do you need to turn away from in repentance?
- What truth and/or promises from Scripture do you need to turn to in faith?

Use the following attitudes of unbelief as a starting point. (See also Appendixes 8 and 12 in the *Discipleship Huddle Guide* for more Repent & Believe tools.)

- FALSE GUILT OR MISPLACED SHAME
- ANXIETY
- DESPAIR OR DESPONDENCY
- PRIDE
- COVETOUSNESS
- JEALOUSY OR ENVY
- BITTERNESS
- LUST OR INDULGENT DESIRES
- LAZINESS
- IMPATIENCE

2. PLAN & PRAY

- Who do you know who is far from God? What steps could you take this week to connect with that person?
- Pray together by name for specific people you know who are far from God.