

# **SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

“What If” – Pastor Chad Gilligan

8.13.23

- 1) Have you ever been plagued by “what ifs?” How did you work through them?**

Read Ezra 9:9 – “Though we are slaves, our God has not forsaken us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.”

- 2) How can our situations affect our perspective of self or the future?**

Read Ezra 6:6-8 – “Now then, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and you other officials of that province, stay away from there. Do not interfere with the work on this temple of God. Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site. Moreover, I hereby decree what you are to do for these elders of the Jews in the construction of this house of God: Their expenses are to be fully paid out of the royal treasury, from the revenues of Trans-Euphrates, so that the work will not stop.”

- 3) In what ways can we hold on to God’s leading amidst setbacks?**
- 4) Share a story about a supposed setback that God used to set something up in your life.**

Read Ezra 5:2 – “Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.”

- 5) What scriptures have helped you in dealing with fear?**
- 6) How has God led you through fears in the past? Take a moment to briefly share with your group.**

**Prayer:** Take time to pray for any “what ifs” your group members may be facing.