

Responding to Sin in the Church

Ezra 9 // February 27, 2022

CG LEADER'S DISCUSSION GUIDE

Open/close with prayer. Don't forget the announcements below!

Notes below are provided to help lead the discussion, not provide "the" right or complete answer in every case. Ample questions are provided; use as needed to lead your CG discussion.

Ice Breaker

#1 - What is your favorite smell and why?

Into the Text (Read Ezra 9)

#2 - Can you describe what Ezra discovers in this chapter?

The officials inform Ezra that the people of Israel are breaking an important part of their covenant with God. In Deuteronomy 7:1-6, God instructed his people to not intermarry with idolators. Here, Ezra discovers that the people did not keep their distinctiveness from the people of the land.

#3 - How did Ezra respond to the peoples' sin?

We see an intense description of their sins in Psalm 106:35-39. The people engaged in practices that were "abominations" to the Lord. Ezra confesses their collective guilt and prays to God.

#4 When Ezra weeps for the sins of God's people, what truth brings him hope?

See verses 8-9 and reflect on the connection to the whole history of God's faithfulness to his people. God promised this land in Genesis 15:18-21. Ezra prays expectantly that God will return and protect his people. Ezra acknowledges that the people have received grace.

#5 - Reflect on God's desire for his people

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth." (ESV)

Application

#6 - What is one "work of the flesh" that you battle against?

For reference consider Galatians 5:19-21. Consider discussing how we battle sin individually and corporately. What are the right responses to someone else's sin?

#7 - Take a few moments to read Galatians 5:22-24. In light of these verses, how can you encourage someone in this group based on what you have seen in them? In your own life, how is God doing a work of renewal?

PRAYER

Let's pray for these things, for God to work renewal in us, among us, and in our community. Also let's pray for our christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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- Ash Wednesday Gathering – March 2nd 6:30-7:30 PM
 - Marriage Conference - March 25th and 26th register on the app
 - Reminder:
 - These events are all on the **Events** tab of the Redeemer app.
- You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab and clicking on an event and following the link to register.