

God's Temple Restored

Ezra 6:13-22 // February 6, 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 - Where are some of the places where you have called home?

The cities or places where we have lived are part of us

Alternatively, what are some of the greatest accomplishments ____?
in human history, your life, et cetera.

Into the Text (Read Ezra 6:13-22)

#2 - Who are the characters in this story who wanted the temple to be rebuilt?

There were some individuals and people groups who wanted the temple to be rebuilt. Others joined them less willingly and were previously opposed to it. King Darius ordered Governor Tatttenai to support the building. The Jews and prophets of God were supportive. However, there had been years of discouragement, lack of motivation and inactivity.

#3 - What did the completion of the temple mean for the Exiles?

The temple was built by a community of God's covenant people. Others were involved in the abundance of God's sovereignty. The rebuilt temple is a marker of God's faithfulness.

#4 - After the temple was dedicated with offerings, why did the people celebrate?

The passover feast celebrated their redemption from Egypt and foreshadowed the redemption of God's people through the blood of his Son. The Word is central to their worship of God.

#5 Let's be reminded there is a better temple

In this story, the temple took 20 years to rebuild so that sacrifices could be made and God's covenant people could worship. In Mark 13, Jesus says that buildings and the temple will be destroyed. Fyi, the temple was destroyed in 70 AD when the city of Jerusalem was overtaken by the Romans in the First Roman-Jewish War.

Application

#6 - What are some of the stresses, in your life, that distract your attention away from the kingdom that God is building?

Consider pressures at home or at work, illness, strife, or disappointments

#7 - Take a few moments to read Psalm 62:5-7. What are some of the truths that stand out to you?

Psalm 62:5-7 [6] For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. [6] He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. [7] On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. (ESV)

#8 - How is God assuring you that, amid your stress, He is your refuge?

PRAYER

Let's pray for these things: about the stresses we're facing, that we would turn to God as our refuge and to place our hope in Jesus as the true and better temple, and God's mission for building his kingdom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Membership Class – Saturday, Feb 12th 10-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Baptism Sunday – Sunday, Feb 13th in both gatherings.
- Redeemer Women – Wednesday, Feb 16th 7-8:30 PM @ Redeemer Bloomington.
- Child & Family Dedication class – Saturday, Feb. 19th 10:30-11:30 AM @ Redeemer Bloomington.
Dedication – Sunday, Feb. 27th in both gatherings.
- 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.