

Small Group Questions

Week of Sunday, April 21st, 2024

Launch

When have you been bogged down in a project that seemed to have no end? This could be anything from building a home, to pursuing an advanced degree, to taking on some project of a hobby, to investing in a relationship.

READ Ezra 4:4-5,24

Observe

- What are the circumstances leading into Ezra chapters 5 and 6? According to these three verses who is responsible for the ceasing of construction on the Lord's temple?

Process

- Read Haggai 1:4, 9-10. According to Haggai, who is responsible for the work stoppage and why?

Respond

- In your own life, how much distraction, discouragement, or attack does it take before you give in and become apathetic or complacent? Have you experienced something in your life akin to what is described in Ezra and Haggai? Share if you're comfortable.

READ Ezra 5

Observe

- What is the nature of Tattenai's question or complaint to Darius?

Process

- In verses 11 through 17, Tattenai quotes the Jews' response to his inquiry. What do we learn about the Jews' honest understanding of their circumstances? What does Tattenai seem to know about the God of Israel?

Respond

- How can Christians cooperate with local governments or others in power who are honestly trying to understand our perspective? What principles of standing our guard, versus being cooperative, does Ezra 5 bring to mind? (Note verse 8)

READ Ezra 6

Observe

- How does Darius respond to the memorandum found in Ecbatana?
- To Whom does Ezra attribute the fortuitous change of circumstances through Darius's decree, according to verse 22?

Respond

- Where has God moved mountains in your life? Is there an area of your life, or a particular struggle where you've given up on seeing God bring victory, healing, or resolution?
- Where have you seen God deliver in a way previously unseen?
- As you conclude, spend time together praying for the places where there seems to be little progress, and express gratitude and praise to God for the places where you've seen victory.