

Ezra 1-10 | First Things First

Getting Going

1. Settling in & Opening Prayer
2. Can you think of a time where your priorities changed based on things being added or removed from your life? What were your constant priorities? What priorities were added or dropped?

Digging Deeper

1. Review: Daniel 1-3
 - a. What is a way this week that you turned to prayer, worship, and community to overcome the pressure from society to conform to it over Christ.
2. The book of Ezra regularly highlights how God was working to help the Jews. Look through Ezra and see if you can see how often and in what ways God's help is noted in the text. How does this shape your understanding of God?
3. Pastor Travis highlighted three tests of faith in Ezra (returning to Jerusalem, rebuilding the temple in the midst of opposition, and removing sin from the community).
 - a. Which of these would be the most difficult for you? Why?
 - b. How do you deal with obstacles? How might you turn to God in them?
 - c. What sins do we tolerate in our community? In our own lives? What would it look like to completely remove them like the Jews did?
4. Read Haggai 1:1-9 together. What stands out to you from this passage? Does this text apply to where you or our church is at? Why or why not?

Practical Preparation:

1. Take some time to honestly share what your priorities in life are. If you are open to it, allow others to speak into how they view your priorities as well.
2. In the book of Ezra putting God first can be described as obeying God's call, seeking God's way instead of our own in hardship, and setting ourselves apart for God. How might we put these into regular practice?
3. The Priest Ezra mourns and prays in chapter 9. In his prayer he highlights how gracious and forgiving God has been to the Jews. Take some time to think about God's grace toward you. How might you respond to him in light of how he has treated you?

Parting Prayer

1. Take some time to pray together asking God to help us to prioritize him. Ask God to convict us of when we place ourselves above him and to forgive us for the sin we allow into our lives.

Optional Extra Question - Would you rather be too cold or too hot? Why?