



## GROUP DISCUSSION | October 23 | Week 4 | Ezra 5:1-6:12

### SERIES OVERVIEW

This 6-week series addresses what God did for the Jewish people as recorded in the book of Ezra and how He also reclaims and redeems our lives for His purpose in this world.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group and lean into discussion that's sparked from the insight and input of your group.

### CONNECTION

Monte shared a few unconventional pairings; like chili on spaghetti, chicken and waffles, and pineapple on pizza. What's an unconventional pairing you like? Share with the group.

### TRUTH

Recap: God's people had returned from Babylonian exile by permission of the King of Persia to rebuild Jerusalem; they first rebuilt the altar, then started on the temple, but soon faced opposition that stalled their efforts for more than a decade. We pick up in chapter 5 where we discover how God uses both conventional and unconventional methods to accomplish His purposes. Someone read Ezra 5:1-2; What sticks out from that passage? Why would that be "conventional?"

Warren Wiersbe writes, "Church history shows that when God wants to arouse His people to do His will, He calls people to proclaim the Word of the Lord." What is "Biblical Preaching" and why is it vital to the Kingdom? What are ways you can encourage and ensure the Word of God is proclaimed?

We then see God use some unconventional methods of accomplishing His purposes; someone read Ezra 5:3-17 and someone else read Ezra 6:9-12. Discuss each way you see God at work: who was being used, how were they being used, and what did that help accomplish?

### APPLICATION

As mentioned, we've talked a lot this year about "reclaiming" certain practicums of the Christian walk; specifically **Bible reading, community, and prayer**. Those would likely be considered "conventional" methods God uses to accomplish His purposes, but if we're not intentional, we'll settle for less by neglecting those disciplines. In Ezra, we see how God's people lost sight at times, and then God would remind them of their purpose. He works the same way today. If you're willing to share, which of those - Bible reading, community, or prayer - do you struggle with the most or simply need to be most intentional with to reclaim?

If you're currently doing things to help in any of those areas, share one or two with the group to offer ways or ideas others can join in and grow. (*Ex: Bible Reading Plan, Unceasing Prayer for Lexington, serving, etc; if you're in LifeGroup right now...you're already engaging in one practical way!*)

### PRAY