

# king's chapel

## Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 4, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Introduction to Ezra and Nehemiah.

**This Week's Text:** Ezra 1 & 2

*"It is left to us to picture what it may have meant to see this consecrated gold and silver brought out into the light of day every piece of it a witness to God's sovereign care and the continuance of the covenant."* **Derek Kidner**

*And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.* **Hebrews 10:11-14**

**Related Texts:** Isaiah 39:5-6, 44:28; Jeremiah 29:10-14; Proverbs 21:1; 2 Kings 25:1-21; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 9:51; Philippians 2:12-13

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- Discuss the important historical context of Ezra 1:1. Reference 2 Kings 25:1-21.
- Discuss what being home means to you.
- What does chapter one reveal about God's character?
- In what ways has God preserved his people throughout scripture?
- What decree did King Cyrus make and what prophecies did this fulfill?
- What are some of the promises of God that comfort you?
- In what ways did God provide for the exiles' return?
- In what ways has God provided for your recent needs?

- What can we learn about God meeting our needs from James 4:1-3?
- What is the significance of the utensils of the house of God being returned?
  - How does that translate into your life today?
- The text teaches us that God is sovereign and yet man is responsible to act in obedience.
  - How important is to believe in both those truths?
  - What happens when one side is over-emphasized?
- What practical steps can you take to pursue the worship and glory of God?
- What practical steps can we take to pursue the worship and glory of God?

**Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus "*set His face to go to Jerusalem,*" not to bring sacrifices but to be the sacrifice.
- Jesus "*set His face to go to Jerusalem,*" not to restore the temple, but as the temple.
- Jesus "*set His face to go to Jerusalem,*" not to sit on a throne, but to go to a cross.

**Next Week's Text: Ezra 3**