

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of February 1, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Ezra the Scribe goes to Jerusalem along with the second group of exiles to bring religious reform.

**This Week's Text:** Ezra 7 and 8

*God is . . . infinitely holy, transcendently holy, superlatively holy, constantly holy, unchangeably holy, exemplary holy, gloriously holy. **Thomas Brooks***

*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 **Hebrews 10:11-12***

**Related Texts:** 1 Corinthians 1:27-29; 2 Timothy 2:2,15; James 1:22-25; Philippians 4:9; Jeremiah 33:17-18; Hebrews 7:11-17, 22-28, 10:11-12, 19-22.

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

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- What is the major theme of the second part of the book of Ezra?
  - What is the context of Ezra 7-8?
- How important was religious revitalization for Israel following the completion of the Temple?
- Who was Ezra and what was his role in the revitalization of worship in Israel (reference Ezra 7:1-10)?
  - What is the significance of Ezra's genealogy (reference Ezra 7:1-6)?
- What's the difference between the Aaronic priesthood and the Levites?
- How does Ezra's stock point to God's sovereignty and His enduring faithfulness to His

people?

- What were Ezra's responsibilities as a skilled scribe and sound scholar?
  - How are these traits relevant to all Christians?
- Why is the study of Scripture by itself insufficient for kingdom mission?
- What empowers and motivates us to obey God's word?
  - How is Scripture taught with true, godly authority?
- Where did Ezra's effectiveness in his mission come from?
- How can we know that the hand of the Lord is on us also?
- Why didn't Ezra request the travel aid of King Artaxerxes? How do we balance strategy and practicality with faith and dependence on God?
- What is the significance of the burnt offerings at the journey's end?
- Discuss the implications of Jeremiah's prophecy in Jeremiah 33:17-18.
  - How does it point to Jesus?
  - How is Jesus' priesthood different from those that came before (Hebrews 7)?
- What are some of the things that are necessary for genuine religious revitalization to occur?
- How could our communities work together to see this realized?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Jesus is the true and better Ezra.
- Jesus is the true and better High Priest.
- Jesus is the true and better sacrifice.

**Next Week's Text:** Ezra 9 and 10