

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Do you have a good memory to share about your father?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Happy Fathers' Day! What kind of dad was your dad?
 - What was or is he known for?
 - Describe his character.
 - How has this affected you?
3. Please read Ezra 2:1-2. One of the names is a man named Zerubbabel. (Keep him in mind!). The rest of the names in this chapter are hard to pronounce! But some mean, "flea", "wild ox", "lefty", "in the shadow of God", "broad nose", or "strong man". What would be the name of your father?
4. What does Ephesians 6:4 mean to you?
5. Zerubbabel was the appointed governor over the province of Judah. He was also a descendent of the last reigning Judean king. Zerubbabel was a descendant of King David and an ancestor of Jesus Christ (Mt. 1:6, 12). His name probably means "seed of Babylon"; but his Persian name was Sheshbazzar, suggesting he may have been in the service of the king (Ezra 1:8—5:14). Yet Zerubbabel left all the comforts of Babylon behind to take on this challenge.
6. Pastor Ruben said, "Don't fall in love with Babylon." Historian Josephus said, "Many remained in Babylon, being unwilling to leave their possessions." Are you willing to go places in obedience to God even though you lose comfort?
7. The House of the Lord was neglected for 14 YEARS....Then something happened... In 520 BC, God gave a word to the Prophet Haggai. Please read Haggai 1:1-15. What did God tell Zerubbabel?
 - What was God's warning in verse five?
 - Have you ever neglected something that God told you to do?
 - Share with the group! Pastor Ruben said, "When you neglect what God has told you to deal with, you also neglect God's perfect will for your life." Share your thoughts. What did God do in verse 14?

8. What lesson does God teach Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:6?
 - What does this verse mean to you?
 - Continue reading Zechariah 4:7-10. What does God tell Zerubbabel in verse 10?
 - How does God view "small things?"
 - What "small thing" do you need to start?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Your Primary job is to point your family to Jesus. Then, be an EXAMPLE of what it looks like to die to yourself and live for Him.
- Don't ever let your level of comfort be the determining factor for being obedient to God.
- Don't make decisions based on what is bigger!!!! Make decisions based on God's will!!!
- Sometimes we can settle for half of God's plan.
- When you neglect what God has told you to deal with, you also neglect God's perfect will for your life.
- Your greatest battles you face in life will need God's Spirit.