

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. Have you decided to attend church services in the building or are you waiting and watching online?

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. According to Ezra 1:1-4, what King was moved to help Israel?
 - 150 years before this event happened, it was prophesied. Please read Isaiah 44:28. What does this tell you about God and your life?
3. Pastor Ruben talked about some lessons the Israelites learned when they went back to Jerusalem. The first lesson was, "They would never again see God with a lesser view." What was the title King Cyrus used to describe God?
 - Brian Houston said, "Who you believe God is determines everything. It affects who we believe God blesses. It affects how we relate to God. It affects how we treat others. It affects how you see yourself." How do you see God?
 - Compare with Psalm 34:8.
4. Please read Ezra 1:5-11. How did the people respond to "The God of Heaven?" What was restored?
5. In Ezra chapter two, there is a list of everyone who is returning. Almost 50,000 people return to Jerusalem. But what happens in Ezra 2:61-62?
 - What does this decision say about the Israelites?
6. Please read Ezra 3:1-7. What does verse one say about the people?
 - What emotion did the people have to work through in verse three?
 - What was the significance of the altar?
 - What was the altar used for?
7. The Israelites had a new view of church. It was different from before. What's your view of church today? Has it changed?

Application

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

- Sometimes God will use that very thing that you are praying to be out of your life.
 - Sometimes that enemy is part of the plan.
 - That very person that has made our life difficult, can also be used for God's purpose.
- Some people do whatever they want to do and use EXCUSES to justify their character.
- They blame their friends, parents, church whatever.
- God sees every season before it happens.
- "Who you believe God is determines everything. It affects who we believe God blesses. It affects how we relate to God. It affects how we treat others. It affects how you see yourself."- Brian Houston
- Sometimes you have to work through fear to worship God.
- Obedience to God almost always involves passing through fear.
- There's nothing more powerful than a CHANGED MIND.