



Week 1 | Ezra | June 26

Key Focus: God can be trusted to answer rebellion with grace.

Opening Up:

- Describe a grandparent (or great grandparent) in one sentence. An example would be, “My grandma was....”
- How do you want your mom or dad to be remembered?
- One day you will be remembered, perhaps by a grandchild. In one sentence how do you want to be remembered?
- How does your life right now reflect that sentence?
- What do you think is the focus of your life right now?
- What needs to be changed?

Reference: Ezra 1 and 2

Discuss:

1. In Ezra 1:4 the exiles are referred to as sojourners and survivors. Everyone’s life in some way is marked by an exilic experience. We are not where we want to be, but we are trying to head somewhere. “Every story has common threads of hope and redemption spun into it.” What story of redemption and hope is your life telling? Or what story of redemption do you want to tell?
2. We must not get comfortable with our brokenness. What are the consequences of not journeying toward a greater a story of redemption?
3. How would our city be different if Christians lived in light of God’s redemptive story?
4. God stirred Cyrus’ heart in Ezra 1:2 just like he hardened Pharaoh’s heart in Exodus 7:3. Proverbs 21:1 says that God can turn a king’s heart wherever he wants.
 1. How does this truth affect the way you view election season?
 2. How does this truth affect how you pray?
 3. Whose heart are you praying for?
5. No heart is beyond the sovereign grace of God. In Ezra 1:5 God stirs the heart of his people. Is God stirring your heart to pray for any of these things?
 1. Someone’s Salvation - What lost person has God put on your heart?
 2. Personal Mission - Do you feel called by God to do something?
 3. Your Repentance - What sin is the Holy Spirit saying is holding you back?
 4. Your Generosity - How is God calling you be generous?
6. With God the impossible is possible. Why is this hard to believe? What needs to change about your prayer life? How can you pray for New City’s impact in ABQ?
7. Pray.