



Week 2 | Ezra | July 3

Key Focus: There is a bigger story.

Opening Up:

- If your life were made into a motion picture, who would you want to play you?
- Who would be your antagonist?
- What would the basic plot of your story be?
- Every movie based on a true story has some embellishments. What would you add to your story to make it more adventurous, suspenseful, or complex?
- If a fictional movie were to be made into reality, what fictional character would you want to be? Why?

Reference: Ezra 3 and 4

Discuss:

1. In Ezra 3:1-5 the people God started rehearsing their great historical story right away. The biblical script has to be rehearsed in order to get the bigger story worked into your life. How has your life changed because of something you have read and rehearsed in the Bible? What do you think you need to rehearse or read from the Bible?
2. What bad beliefs (or dogma) have negatively affected your story? How?
3. In Ezra 1:4 the people of God started incorporating their symbols like “booths” that symbolized God’s protection in the wilderness after the Exodus. We all have lived a lesser story. The lesser story has symbols that exemplify its story. What symbols have been present in your lesser story? What did these symbols mean to you and the story you were telling?
4. What do the Christian symbols of communion and baptism mean to you? How do they exemplify the bigger story that God is telling? Why are these symbols important to the life of a Christian?
5. Has a song ever become an anthem for you? Has an anthem ever moved you to do something?
6. Why is music an important part of our lives?
7. Have you ever chosen faith over fear?
8. How does worship drive away fear?
9. In Ezra 3:11-13 the people God worship over what God has done, yet there was weeping. The weeping is likely because there is still evidence of the lesser story. Have you ever felt like worshiping and weeping at the same time? Has the bigger story and the lesser story ever crossed paths? What was that like?
10. In John 16:33 Jesus addressed the intersection between the two stories. How does what Jesus said affect the way you live your life?
11. Pray.