



Week 5 | Ezra | July 24

Key Focus: We can have a faith that surpasses our fears.

Opening Up:

- Are you more likely to be a rebel or a rule follower? Explain.
- What insecurities in life do your rebellion or rule following most pull from?
- If you are a rebel, have you ever wanted to be a rule follower. If you are a rule follower have you ever wanted to be a rebel? Explain.
- How has God most helped you to understand you?
- What part of your personality do you wish you understood more?

Reference: Ezra 8

Discuss:

1. Deuteronomy 4:25-28 explains that idolatry is the source of Israel's broken story. Idolatry is born out of our insecurities. We are tempted to worship what ever makes us feel most secure. How have you seen your insecurities show up your broken story?
2. Idolatry is seeking something else for security other than Jesus. What patterns of insecurity show up most in your idolatry?
3. How might this statement be true? "When broken people try to fix their broken problems they only perpetuate the brokenness."
4. In Ezra 8:22 it says that God's hand is on all who seek him. How have you seen God's hand in your life when you have sought him?
5. Have you ever felt like God's hand was not in your life? Have you ever felt far from God and from others?
6. When Ezra was insecure and afraid he fasted, prayed, humbled himself, and sought after God . (Ezra 8:21-23) Have you ever seen a difference in your life from times of devotion to times of distance from God? Explain. What affect does prayer have on your insecurities?
7. In Ezra 8:17 there is a second calling to the Levites. The ministers of God did not respond to the first call. Why are we sometimes reluctant to respond to God's missional calling? How does it make you feel to know that God gives second chances?
8. God turns self-reliant rebels into God-reliant missionaries. In what way are you being called to serve God on his mission? Who is God calling you to love?
9. What fears keep you from the mission of God?
10. Pray.