



## Week 6 | Ezra | July 31

**Key Focus:** To rehab from a broken story it will require repentance.

### Opening Up:

- Do you have siblings? What is your relationship like? How is it different now than from childhood?
- What kinds of conflict did you experience with your siblings growing up?
- How did you learn to resolve conflict?
- How has your conflict resolution training or lack of training effected you as an adult?

**Reference:** Ezra 9 - 10

### Discuss:

1. Sometimes people will criticize Christianity and call it a crutch. How have you needed your faith as a crutch? How can this sentiment be both true and positive about Christianity?
2. In Ezra 9:4 people “trembled” at the words of God and repented over sin. Why is it important to have an outside voice that is more important than your voice? How have you found the following statement to be true? “As long as your word is the final word, your broken story will keep breaking you.”
3. Ephesians 4:15 says that we should speak the truth in love. How have you needed someone to speak the truth in love to you in the past? What happens to someone if they never receive any outside feedback?
4. What is the difference between these two sayings? “I am sorry for how you feel” and “I am sorry for what I have done?”
5. Why is it hard to say, “I was wrong” with out adding contextualization or trying elicit pity?
6. How does the gospel empower you to look at your sin and say, “you don’t define me?” How is it empowering to know Christ has paid for your sin and given you his righteousness?
7. In Ezra 9:3, Ezra weeps bitterly over sin. How has sin in your life and the lives of others caused you to weep bitterly? How has Christ comforted you in your morning over sin?
8. In Ezra 10:3 there is a plan to rid Israel of idolatry. Repentance requires turning away from a false God and turning to the true God. When has repentance meant turning away from something significant in your life? Why is it hard to do?
9. Are God, family, work, and ministry appropriately prioritized in your life? What is different about life when your priorities are straight?
10. Pray.