**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

**Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: Ruin, Rebuild, Renew*

*Sermon: Worshipping with Joy and Weeping*

*2-17-19*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Opening Question: **If you were able to instantly learn how to play any instrument, which instrument would you choose? Why?**

* **Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

**Covenant Revealed**

1) Covenant faithfulness and continuity

2) Covenant joy and celebration

3) Covenant sorrow and weeping.

**Exhortations To Heed**

1) You should allow God’s faithfulness to you in the past inform your trust in God’s promises to you today.

2) You should realize that sin is lethal, it seeks to ruin your life.

3) You should embrace a biblical understanding of both joy and sadness in your life.

* *For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel*.

**Into The Text** (15 Minutes) (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the truth. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Ezra 3:7-9. *Ask: What rebuilding efforts were similar to Solomon’s building of the temple? Why were the people in Ezra 3 seeking to imitate the same steps taken by Solomon in the original temple? What was God revealing to them about his covenant with them?*
2. Ask someone to read Ezra 3:10-11*. Ask: What were the priests doing in V10? What were the Levites doing? What song did they sing in V11? Why did the people rejoice so much at the completion of only the foundation?*
3. Ask everyone to turn to Psalm 136. Go around the room with each person reading one verse at a time until the chapter is finished. *Ask: How good is our God?*
4. Ask someone to read Ezra 3:12-13. *Ask: What did those who were weeping see that many of the other Israelites had not seen? Why were they weeping?* There was joy, celebration, music, singing and there was loud weeping. *Ask: What must have that scene been like?*
5. Ask someone to read 2 Chronicles 5:2-14; 7:1-3. *Ask: What was different about this scene in 2 Chronicles 5-7 from the scene in Ezra 3?*

**Application & Discussion** (15-20 Minutes)

1. Say: **Let’s move to application and discussion**. *Ask: Go around the room and have each person share one way in which God has been good to them.*
2. *Ask: Are there biblical reasons for Christians to weep? How should we balance joy and sadness in our lives? How can Christians avoid ‘fake smile joy’?*
3. Ask: *How has God proven that his love endures forever? Why do you believe this?*
4. Ask: *Based on Ezra 3 and 2 Chronicles 5, what place should music and instruments have in our worship service? What place should emotion have in our worship?*
5. *Ask: In what ways do we play with sin and not take it seriously enough? Why does sin always escalate? Will anyone testify to the ruin and danger of sin in their own life?*

**Closing Prayer Time**: (10-12 Minutes) **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Let’s thank God for his goodness. ‘For he is good and his steadfast love endures forever’. *(Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*