**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: Ruin, Rebuild, Renew*

*Sermon: Temple Completion & Joyful Worship*

 *3-10-19*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Opening Question: **What is your favorite worship song? Why is it your favorite?**
* **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

**Ezra 6:13-22**

* I. Tattenai does all that Darius decreed.
* II. As the Word of the Lord was preached, God’s people prospered in their rebuilding work.
* III. The temple rebuilding was finally completed by the decree of God.
* IV. The people of God dedicated the rebuilt temple to the Lord God.
* V. The people of God celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem once again.
* VI. Gentiles join the Jews in the worship of Yahweh by separating themselves from unclean pagan practices.
* VII. The people worshipped the Lord with great joy.
* **What is God teaching us?**
* 1) God revealed that his focus all along was not on a physical building but on the purpose for which it was built – worship!
* 2) The Lord God revealed that true commitment to God is demonstrated through separation from pagan worldly living.
* 3) The Lord God welcomes all those who are willing to forsake all other allegiances in order to worship him alone.
* 4) It is the Lord God that fills his people with joy.
* 5) The Lord God will use his divine work among his people to draw outsiders to himself.

**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 6:13-15. *Ask: How did Tattenai respond to Darius’s decree? What was happening to the rebuilding effort during the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah? By whose decree did the people of God finish rebuilding the temple? What did finishing the temple signify spiritually?*
2. Ask someone to read Ezra 6:16-18*. Ask: How did the people of God dedicate the temple? What was the significance of the 12 male goats? Why and for what purpose were the priests and Levites set in their divisions?*
3. Ask someone to read Ezra 6:19-22. *Ask: What was the significance of celebrating the Passover? What prevented the people from celebrating Passover prior to their return to Jerusalem? How is Christ foreshadowed in their celebration of Passover? What did the pagans have to do before they could worship the Lord with the people of God? Why were the pagans allowed to eat the Passover meal with the people of God? Who made the people of God joyful?*

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

1. Say: **Let’s move to application and discussion**. *Ask: What are the kinds of things that bring you joy? What are the kinds of things that rob you of joy? How can you allow the Lord to make you joyful?*
2. *Ask: Why is God so concerned with what and who you worship? Why must we separate ourselves from pagan worldly living in order to worship God?*
3. *Ask: Does God welcome all people to come worship him? Does God disallow anyone from coming to him in worship? What does God require in order to worship him?*
4. Ask: *What caused the pagans in Ezra to want to worship the Lord God with the people of God? How can our worship of God be a witness to those around us? How can our Legacy of Worship construction project be used as a tool for witness to those in our community?*
5. *Ask: How can God use the worship of our church community as a tool for gospel witness? Is it possible that God can make himself known to an unbeliever simply through the worship of his people? How can that happen?*

**Closing Prayer Time**: (10-12 Minutes) **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Let’s ask the Lord to use our worship of God as his tool for witness. Ask him to bless and go before us in this Legacy of Worship project. *(Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*