

“Built for Worship”
The people at their best – Ezra 2:1-70

A people with a purpose: Worship (v.1-58)

Leaders (v.2)

People by family name and town (v.3-35)

People who worked in the temple (v.36-58)

A people with a focus: Purity (v.59-63)

“...they could not show that their families were descended from Israel.” (v.59)

“These searched for their family records, but they could not find them.”
(v.62)

A people with an attitude: Generosity (v.64-70)

“When they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings towards the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments.”
(v.68-69)

Jesus – the true Israelite

“When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, ‘Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’” (John 1:47)

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Questions to think and pray through over the week

Are there some parts of the Bible that you gloss over because they seem irrelevant or perhaps too difficult to understand?

What has Ezra 2 taught you that you hadn't considered before, and may help you in your approach next time you find a section of the Bible that you're unsure about?

In what ways can the people in Ezra 2 be an inspiration for us in the way we might respond to God's calling in our lives?

God's purpose was for the temple to be rebuilt so that the people could worship Him in Jerusalem again. What would you say is the purpose of your life? Do you tend to forget this, and what might help you to keep this as your overriding purpose for living?

What do you think it means to worship God 'in spirit and in truth' (John 4:24), and how might you do this more and more?

In what ways have you known the generosity of God in your life? How might you show generosity in response to this?

How is Jesus the perfect example of a person 'at their best'? How might you praise Him more and more because of who He is?