

Built for Worship
“Introducing Ezra” – Ezra 7:1-10

The man behind the name

Eponyms

The book of Ezra and the man Ezra

One story – the priority of worshipping the LORD, by living holy & godly lives

1. Prepared for mission by God (7:1-6)




Ezra the priest

Ezra the teacher

“The hand of the LORD his God was on him” (v.6)

2. Fulfilling the mission for God (7:7-10)

“the gracious hand of his God was on him, because...” (v.9-10)

-  Ezra was devoted to the “study” of God’s Law
-  Ezra was devoted to the “observance” of God’s Law
-  Ezra was devoted to “teaching” God’s Law

Jesus:

 Our Great Teacher (Mark 1:22)

 Our Great High Priest (Hebrews 10:12)

Digging Deeper questions for personal reflection or discussion

Why do we so often pigeonhole worship as simply being the time that we meet together in our church building for services? And even sometimes narrow it down to the songs that we sing? What other ways might we worship the LORD in holy & godly living? Come on, broaden it right out!

Through this book, we're reminded that God was looking after His people: "The eye of their God was watching over" them (5:5), and now here, "The hand of the Lord his God was on him [Ezra]" (7:6). How have you felt or experienced God's hand on you in these past few weeks? How will you continue to trust Him for the next part of your story/your mission from God?

What was Ezra 'devoted' to, and what do you think this meant for his life?

What sorts of things are you devoted to?

Even at this time of social restrictions, what sorts of things can we become devoted to more than God, His Word, & our Saviour Jesus?

How is Jesus our Great Teacher?

How is Jesus our Great High Priest?

Why not spend some time reflecting on the greatness of Jesus!

Why is it important for us to realise that the whole of Scripture points to Jesus? What mistakes might we make if we forget this?

Is 'studying' God's Word just for clever people? What do you think it really means, and how might you do this?

What about 'observing' God's Word – obeying Him? Are there areas of your life that you're still keeping control of for yourself? How might you use this time to repent and release this to God and live His way?

How might you 'teach' God's Word to others at this time, either in your household, or talking through these questions with a friend on the phone, or continuing with the Course of Your Life with your partner/triplet?