

# Community Group Study Guide

## A Faithful God in a Faithless World Ezra 1:1-4

1. Fulfilling of prophecy of Jeremiah – 70 years of captivity...God answered it by setting the events of this book in motion (vs. 1)
  - God is faithful to His promises even when it appears He isn't
  - God's word is faithful and trustworthy
2. God "stirs" King Cyrus to put in motion the exiles to go back to Jerusalem (vs. 1)
  - God is Sovereign over whole earth, not only His own people
  - He stops at nothing to display His glory through His people
3. God has stirred Cyrus to have God's people go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple (vs. 2-4)
  - God has not forgotten His people
  - Temple is cultural center of Israelites due to it being the locus of the presence of God (it makes sense that this would be the first thing they would rebuild)
  - Physical Temple is symbolic...meant to point to the true Priest King (Jesus, the Branch – Zech. 6.12-13) that is going to build a Temple...a Temple of people to display God's glory

**Main Idea:** Though the circumstances were dark, charred, and it appeared as though God was distant and defeated He was still advancing His mission in the world to bring about a Savior who would bring man back into fellowship with His God (King and Priest in peace).

**Application for us:** We will suffer, but in our suffering and in our daily lives we must look to the Christ who suffered for us...God is on a mission to display His glory through His people...are you on the same mission? Are you studying and being transformed by the word that God's promises are found in? Are you finding comfort and joy in the Sovereign, Faithful God?