

# Community Group Study Guide

## Hopeful Exiles Ezra 1:5-11

1. Given that we saw God "stirring" in the hearts of King Cyrus and others for His purposes and His peoples' good...how can this particularly encourage us in our day to day lives?
2. We see God's people exiled, their homes burned, and their Temple ruined...how is it we can identify with the Israelites in this state, both in how they got to that point and how to deal with the calamity at hand?
3. In the story of Ezra we see God "tilling the soil" in preparation for the coming Messiah who would build a Temple and usher in the "new covenant". What is the New Covenant and how does that affect us? (Jer. 31.31-34)