

Community Group Study Guide

Moving Forward by Looking Back Ezra 2

Overview

Main Idea: God's people are preserved and restored as proper worshipers in connecting to the past

1. God preserves and restores people
 - Just as He preserves pots and pans He ultimately uses people to advance His mission because they are image bearers, able to know Him and display Him
2. God preserves and restores order
 - God restored peoples gifted in a myriad of ways in order to advance His purposes in the world, be they leadership, laity, servants, etc. all are needed all play a part
3. God preserves and restores moving forward by connecting to the past
 - The names in this chapter are connecting to a particular community of people marked by a particular message of the covenant God made with Abraham that He would give Him Himself
 - These people painstakingly were preserving the purity of their community as it was laid out in the past in order to help advance them moving forward

Questions

1. What is it about people that God uses to advance His mission on earth? Why are they more important than other things? Be specific.
2. What is it about order with the community of God's people that help them properly worship God as opposed to no order?
3. How can looking to the past connect us to one another and therein advance us in moving forward as more fervent worshipers of God?
4. How is it that connecting to these names in the past point to Christ? How does this shape our new identity (Gal. 2:20)?