

Community Group Study Guide

Ezra 8

Main Idea

God's people prepare for the work of Restoration

Overview

- I. God uses all types of laborers for the work of Restoration
 - a. God's covenant people (laborers)
 - b. These people were participating in the mission with all their gifts

- II. God's people ready their hearts for the work of Restoration
 - a. Fast
 - b. Pray
 - c. They had confidence and courage in the Lord their God
 - d. Because of these things we find the hand of God upon them again

- III. God's people need atonement for sin
 - a. Offered a "sin offering" upon their arrival to appease the wrath of God that was due to fall on them because of their lack of holiness in light of God's great holiness
 - b. Jesus was the ultimate atonement for our sins that allows us to know God and be found in him...this is complete restoration

Questions

1. Why are we often slow in participating in the mission of God to display His glory in the world (in our instance through the church...Eph. 3.10)? What have we learned about the use of all of God's people for service in Ezra?

2. What are some tangible things we can do to prepare for our lives? How can the Sabbath be used in this endeavor?

3. Prayer...what is it? How and why should we do it?

4. Fasting...what is it? How and why should we do it?

5. How does atonement inform our preparation in advancing the purposes of God in our own hearts and in our communities?