
We all face times when we have to start over. For the Israelites, it meant returning home and rebuilding what had been destroyed: the temple. This task required them to face their fears, develop a plan, follow through with the plan, and thank God for the results. The same is true for us. In this study we will discuss how we can rebuild in a way that honors God.

What Do You Think?

- Have you ever watched someone else start over? What do you think they did right or wrong?
- Have **you** ever had to start over (*career, moving, relationships, finances, etc.*)? What was the experience like?

“They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening.” Ezra 3:3 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

- **Read Ezra 3:3 and Isaiah 41:8-10.** What are some of the fears we face when we think about following God, particularly when it comes to rebuilding? How should we react to those fears?
- **Read Ezra 3:6-7 and Proverbs 16:9.** Rebuilding requires a plan and the commitment to see the plan through. What are some of the things that make developing and implementing a plan difficult? How does God help?

“...so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.”
Ezra 3:13 (ESV)

- **Read Ezra 3:11-13.** Answer the following questions about the results of rebuilding:
 - **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8.** How can comparison cause discontentment when we are rebuilding? What is the right perspective?

- **Read Psalm 150.** What role does praise have in the rebuilding process?

What Will You Do?

- Is there something in your life that you realize needs to be rebuilt? What does that process look like? How can the group help?
- Dissatisfaction, discouragement, and disappointment all lead to despair. Spend time as a group thanking God for the good things He has given you and what He has brought you through.