

## Restoring Foundations

Restoring Scripture: Ezra 7:1-28

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 7.

1. From Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 6, how does the completion of the temple validated God's redemptive story?
2. Read Ezra 7:1, Ezra 4:6-23, Esther 3:1 & 12-14, and Esther 9:1-4. What took place after the temple was completed? Do you think the Israelites expected the ongoing opposition? How have you experienced opposition following a victory? How did you persevere through that opposition?
3. Read Ezra 7:1-10. What was Ezra's background? How would you describe his character and his devotion?
4. Read Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:10-11, Matthew 4:4, John 15:7, Romans 15:4, Hebrews 4:12, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Why should we be devoted to the study of the Word of God and obedient to it? How much time in the last week have you spent in the study of God's Word? What does this reveal about your devotion to God?
5. Read Ezra 7:11-20. What does the king send with Ezra and for what purpose? What does this reveal about the king's view of Ezra and his view of God? How are you viewed in your sphere of influence? How does that reflect on other's view of God?
6. Read Ezra 7:21-24. What does the king order the treasures of the Trans-Euphrates to provide the Israelites and for what purpose? What are the treasures told they could not to do? How would this encourage the Israelites?
7. Read Ezra 7:25-26. What 3 things does King Artaxerxes give Ezra the authority to do and how would this encourage Ezra and the Israelites?
8. Read Ezra 7:27-28 with Joshua 1:9, Psalm 56:3-4, and Isaiah 41:10-13. For what does Ezra praise God? What attitude and action ensued? Why do you think that Ezra would need that attitude? What encouragement do you receive from these verses?
9. What do you learn about victory, opposition, faithfulness, and obedience from this chapter? How can you apply what you have learned to your life this week?