

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What are some of your favorite books or movies? Why do you think you connect with those stories?
- Do you prefer a story with a nice neat ending, or would you rather not have closure as the credits roll?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat taught us what God does when He prepares to do something great.**

Intro:

- The Book of Ezra opens in the year 539BC when Cyrus is king of Persia. The 70 year Jewish captivity has come to a close and God is about to do something great! In fact, the name, "Ezra" means "God helps." *Respond quickly in your group: How did God help you TODAY?*

When God Wants To Do A Work:

1. **He moves in the hearts of key people (Ezra 1:1)**
 - In verse 1, we read that "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia." Compare this passage to 1 Timothy 2:1-2. *After reading these passages, how might your attitude need to change toward those in authority (parents, teachers, law enforcement, government officials, etc.)?*
2. **He wills in the hearts of key people (Ezra 1:1b)**
 - God caused Cyrus to make a proclamation. Pastor Pat said, "When God is in something, it doesn't just become an idea that gets kicked around. It becomes an action that gets implemented." *Are you someone that talks about making things happen, or actually makes things happen? When is the last time you knew that God wanted you to do something and you did it?*
3. **He leads others to supply the resources for the journey (Ezra 1:4 and 6)**
 - God brought in the resources needed to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem just like He supplied resources for the Israelites when they left Egypt. *Read Philippians 4:19 and talk as a group about how God has taken care of you in surprising ways.*
4. **He moves the right people to make the right move (Ezra 2:3-67)**
 - Ezra chapter 2 tells us that some of the Jewish people went to restore Jerusalem, but most did not go. God calls everyone to serve, but not everybody is called to go as a missionary. *Jesus tells His disciples to "Go" in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-19), so how do you know where God wants you to "go"? How can you point people to Jesus right now where He has you?*

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, personalize these words as you pray, "God, help us believe that..."
 - ...While we are waiting, You are working.
 - ...While we are following Your lead, You are leading our suppliers.
 - ...While we sing to You on the mountain, we'll cling to you in the valley.

