

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](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out **Thomas Constable's Expository Notes**, available free online [here](http://www.StudyLight.org). ([www.StudyLight.org](http://www.StudyLight.org))

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- It's almost summer! Talk about your personal summer plans, plans you have with family or friends, and plans you have as a Community Group together.

## 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 encouraged us to follow Ezra's example of authenticity.**

## Ezra is a Portrait of Authenticity:

### 1. **Great Upbringing (Ezra 7:1-5)**

- Ezra had a godly family tree. What do you know about your ancestors? Do you have any stories about your relatives that reveal whether or not they loved Jesus? Talk about a few of them.
- What is the benefit of having a godly legacy? Is there a danger in relying on that legacy?

### 2. **Great Faith (Ezra 7:6, 18-20)**

- Read ahead to Ezra 8:21-23 and explain how Ezra displayed great faith.
- Faith must lead to action. How have you seen that in your own life, in your Community Group, or at Saylorville Church?

### 3. **Great Humility (Ezra 8:21)**

- God's people who are living authentically are both bold and humble. Look at Ezra 7:9 and talk about how this often-repeated phrase shows Ezra's boldness and humility.
- What might God be asking you to do this week that will take Spirit-enabled boldness and humility?

### 4. **Great Gratitude (Ezra 7:27-28a)**

- Are you a grateful person? What would those closest to you say? Spend a few moments right now to express thanks to God. "God, I'm so thankful for..."
- Read Psalm 126:1-3 as a group. How might this passage help direct your heart this week?

### 5. **Great Courage (Ezra 7:28)**

- Ezra followed in the footsteps of his ancestor, Phinehas, who courageously put an end to the sinful acts of the Israelites (Numbers 25:1-9). Can you think of a time when you or someone close to you took a courageous stand for God in the midst of great sin? What were the circumstances?

### 6. **Great Doer (Ezra 7:10)**

- The Bible wasn't written simply for our information but for our transformation through it's application. If you've been a Christ-follower for a while, what are you doing with the knowledge that you've gained? Are you simply gaining information, or does your life show actual transformation?

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you would be an authentic follower of Jesus, and that you would encourage others to do so.

