

COMING HOME

A STUDY OF EZRA



WEEK 3: WORSHIP AND RESPONSE

Read the Text

Ezra 3:10-13

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

“For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, 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.

Main Point

Have you ever been in a situation where you were overwhelmed with fear? How did you respond? Although many of us may be tempted to control, avoid, self-medicate, or succumb to other harmful responses, **God invites us to respond through worship**. In Ezra 3, we see God's people work out this truth as they embark on re-building the temple. And as they respond, we see that **their worship looks very different from one another**. Some rejoice while others weep. And that's true in our lives as well. Sometimes our worship will appear joyful and celebratory, and other times it looks like weeping and crying out to the Father. Whatever it looks like though, **our response to life's trials should always start with worship**.

Reflect Together

- 1. Who is God?:** God designed us to worship. We see this throughout Scripture with specific types of sacrifices, places of worship, prayers, and many celebrations. Why do you think worship is so central to God's plan for us? How is worship for our good and God's glory?
- 2. What has He done?:** Have you experienced a moment or season where God revealed himself to you as you worshipped (whether that's worship through song, prayer, sabbath, silence and solitude, etc.)? What was that like for you? How did it change you?
- 3. Who are you?:** Worship thrives when we're in regular rhythms with others. These rhythms remind us of the good news of the Gospel. They align our hearts with Jesus and can help us endure times of trial. Take some time to do a worship-health-check. How are you experiencing worship these days? What's going well and coming easier to you? What's difficult or challenging? Why do you think those specific areas of worship are easier or harder? Here are some examples of worship: gathering on Sundays, participating in MC and DNA, praying,

sabbath, taking communion, serving, reading God's word, praying, giving, singing.

4. *What are you to do?*

In light of your answer to #3, what next steps would you like to take to grow in your worship? How do you think that would be helpful in your walk with Jesus? How can your community support you?

Abide Together

Take some time to pray over any growth or struggles that came up in tonight's discussion. Pray that your MC would flourish in their worship together.