

INTRO

Rob started his sermon by exploring the themes of returning, rebuilding, and restoring found in Ezra.

How do these words resonate with different areas of your life - relationally, geographically, spiritually, or economically?

IDEA 1

From the text, Rob emphasized that God is sovereignly at work bringing renewal and restoration, highlighting how God "stirred hearts".

How would you describe what it means to have God stir your heart? Where have you experienced God "stirring your heart" recently?

Can you recall a time when God brought help or renewal through an unexpected person or source? Consider sharing with your group.

IDEA 2

Rob highlighted that when God's people's hearts are stirred, the proper response is action.

What examples did you see in the text of people responding with action to God's stirring?

How have you, your life group, or our church community responded to God's stirring in the past?

What current needs in our community might God be stirring hearts about?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to meditate on Ezra 1:5-6 as a life group:

"Then God stirred the hearts of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the Lord. And all their neighbors assisted by giving them articles of silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock. They gave them many valuable gifts in addition to all the voluntary offerings."

As you meditate, reflect on these questions:

- What might God be stirring in your heart to rebuild or restore?
- How might God be calling you to respond with action?
- Where do you see opportunities for collective action in your community?

Take some time to share together what you are hearing from God.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Rob provided two invitations: one personal and one corporate.

Personal Practice:

How can you remain steadfast this week in waiting for God's faithfulness?

Consider setting aside time daily to declare praise despite your circumstances.

Corporate Practice:

Pray together about some of the things God has begun stirring in your hearts from your "Experiencing God Together" practice. What could taking action look like?

Rob highlighted our "Love the City" initiative. If you would like more information about it, use the QR code below.

