

INTRO

Rob began by discussing the Festival of Shelters and the concept of rebuilding.

What areas of your life currently need rebuilding or restoration?

When have you experienced a significant "restart" or new beginning?

IDEA 1

Rob emphasized the importance of a strong spiritual foundation in rebuilding.

What does a spiritual foundation look like in your current life circumstances?

How do you prioritize worship and spiritual centering during challenging times?

Where might you need to "re-center" currently?

IDEA 2

Rob highlighted the importance of making space for both celebration and grief.

How do you typically respond to change - with joy, lament, or a mixture of emotions?

When have you experienced a moment of mixed emotions like the exiles in the text?

How can you create space for both celebration and grief in your life? In your community?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to meditate on Ezra 3:10-11 as a life group:

"When the builders completed the foundation of the Lord's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets... With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the Lord: 'He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!'"

As you meditate, reflect on these questions:

- Where can you pause and celebrate God's faithfulness in your journey?
- How might worship help you through a season of rebuilding?
- What does trusting God look like in your current circumstances?

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

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Identify one area needing spiritual re-centering in your life. Create space to both celebrate progress and process any grief.

Practice a "wise fool" approach to change:

- Put the interests of others and the upcoming generations before your their comfort and desires.
- These are the ones that become the sages – they grieved and lamented and put their trust in God's care and now celebrate in the current reality.
- Their lament process moved them to trust.
- Grieving brought the comparisons in their mind before God and released these to Him

Consider sharing your rebuilding journey with your life group.

Remember: We grieve to move forward, not to get stuck in the past.