

INTRO

How would you describe what it means to be a leader?

IDEA 1

Josh highlighted several qualities of Ezra:

- He had sovereign foundations (family lineage, time and place)
- He devoted himself completely to God
- He was faithful in studying, obeying, and teaching God's word
- He took action when he saw a need

Which of these qualities resonates most with your current season of life?

What area might God be calling you to develop further?

How might your unique background and experiences be part of God's plan?

IDEA 2

Josh emphasized that God uses passionate leaders rather than perfect ones:

- Leadership is about "going first" rather than having expertise
- Ezra took risks with boldness, confidence, and authority
- He acted before knowing God's favor was on him

How might your perspective of leadership change if you viewed it as "going first" rather than being an expert?

Where do you feel God might be stirring your heart to "go first" in some area?

What risks might God be inviting you to take with boldness and confidence?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to meditate on Ezra 7:10 as a life group:

"For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel."

As you meditate, reflect on these questions:

- What might be disqualifying you in your own mind from serving God?
- How might God be inviting you to approach Him with greater confidence?
- What area of need do you see where you could say, "Why not me?"

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

- Share examples of how you've seen God use your "whole story" - both strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage one another with the truth that "passionate leaders aren't perfect"
- Pray for boldness to live out Acts 4:13 - that others would recognize you have "been with Jesus"

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Identify one thing you believe disqualifies you from being used by God.

Spend time in prayer surrendering this belief and asking for God's perspective.

Take one small risk this week with the confidence that God is with you.

Remember: God isn't looking for your perfection but your passionate devotion and willingness to step out in faith.