

INTRO

In this sermon, Rob explored the role of confession in community through Ezra chapter 9, focusing on corporate confession as an essential practice for spiritual renewal.

When have you experienced the power of confession in your own life? How did it lead to restoration?

What's your initial reaction to the idea of corporate confession—confessing sins you didn't personally commit?

IDEA 1: TWO TYPES OF CONFESSION

Rob highlighted two key aspects of confession found in Ezra's prayer:

Confession of God's character—acknowledging who God is.

Confession of compromised allegiance—acknowledging where we've fallen short.

In what ways have you experienced God's faithfulness and justice as described in Ezra's prayer?

When was the last time you confessed who God is rather than just what you've done wrong?

What does it look like to worship through confession?

When have you seen confession lead to renewal in a relationship or community?

How does confession create space for God's peace to enter our communities?

IDEA 2: CORPORATE CONFESSION AND SOLIDARITY

Rob emphasized that Ezra modeled corporate confession by:

- Moving from "I" to "we" language
- Standing in solidarity with his community
- Confessing without excuses or blame
- Identifying with sins he didn't personally commit

IDEA 2 CONT.

What makes corporate confession difficult in our individualistic culture?

Think about Rob's football analogy—how does this help you understand corporate confession?

When have you experienced someone standing in solidarity with you in a difficult situation?

How can we practice corporate confession without creating a culture of blame or shame?

What might it look like to pray for our city the way Rob prayed for his city in the Middle East?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to meditate on 1 John 1:9 as a life group:

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

Then:

- Take time together to confess who God has shown Himself to be in your community
- Prayerfully discuss what "compromised allegiances" might be holding back your group, church, or city
- Pray together for God to reveal roadblocks to peace and unity that need to be addressed through confession—take some time to confess those together.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

- **Set aside time this week to confess both who God is and where your allegiances have been compromised.**
- **Practice confession without excuses, acknowledging God's righteousness.**
- **Consider one area where you can stand in solidarity with others, even if you didn't personally cause the problem.**