

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – Ezra

Main Idea

The story of Ezra reminds us that even in seasons of ruin, exile, and brokenness, God's faithfulness never wavers. After seventy years of exile, God kept His promise and led His people back to their homeland to rebuild what had been lost. In the midst of a culture filled with distraction and compromise, Ezra set his heart to know God's Word, live it out, and teach it to others. His life shows us that true renewal begins when we anchor ourselves in God's truth and respond with loving obedience. As we begin this conversation, let's invite God to stir our hearts, just as He did in Ezra's day—calling us to study, obey, and share His Word, so that we, too, can experience His restoring power in our lives.

Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.

EZRA 7:10

Make It Practical

God keeps His promises, even when His people fail.

- Despite Israel's disobedience and exile, God remained faithful to His covenant and brought His people back to their land to rebuild. (Jeremiah 29:10; Ezra 1:1)

A life devoted to God begins with knowing His Word and living it out.

- Ezra determined to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach it, showing us that true transformation flows from God's truth. (Ezra 7:10)

Obedience to God is a loving response to His grace.

- We don't obey to earn God's favor, but because we have received it. Jesus frees us for obedience, and our lives should reflect His truth to others. (John 15:15)

Talk About It

God kept His promise to bring His people back from exile. How have you seen God's faithfulness in your own life, even after seasons of disobedience or struggle?

- Jeremiah 29:10; Ezra 1:1

Ezra set his heart to study, obey, and teach God's Word. What step do you need to take right now—learning, living, or sharing God's truth—and what might that look like this week?

- (Ezra 7:10)

The sermon reminded us that obedience is not about earning God's grace, but responding to it. How does that perspective change the way you view God's commands and your daily walk with Him?

- (John 15:15)

Obedience isn't about earning God's grace; it's about cooperating with it. Jesus didn't free us from obedience—He freed us for obedience.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and for always keeping Your promises. Help us, like Ezra, to set our hearts on knowing Your Word, living it out, and sharing it with others. Strengthen us to walk in loving obedience, not to earn Your grace, but because we have already received it. Guide us this week to reflect Your truth and love in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Next Steps

Commit to daily time in God's Word.

- Set aside intentional time each day to read and reflect on Scripture, asking God to reveal His truth and shape your heart.

Identify one area where you can align your actions with what you say you believe.

- Ask God to show you where obedience needs to grow, and take a concrete step to live out His commands in that area.

Look for an opportunity this week to share God's truth with someone.

- Whether through a conversation, an act of kindness, or sharing your testimony, let your life point others to Him.