



SMALL GROUPS

Developing deep rooted relationships with God and each other



Winter Small Groups

Monday 7:00 p.m.

Hosts: Scott & Jan Carpenter
587 Scott Drive, Coldwater
Contact: [Melissa Houtz](#)
(517) 617-5797

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

Tijuana Missions
Hosts: Solano and Jennie deAraujo
974 Dewsenberry Road, Bronson
Contact: [Frank Cabrera](#)
(517) 369-9783

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Hosts: Jim and Anna Mae Wickey
389 Bawden Road, Bronson
Contact: [Pastor Jim](#)
(517) 756-8001

Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Hosts: Bill and Linda Penn
247 West Nettleman Road, Bronson
Contact: [Brandon Carpenter](#)
989-277-5988
(kid-friendly)



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Small Group Discussion Guide

week of 03/13/17

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to use your study to sharpen your understanding of his word and his will for your life.

- I. Ezra, like Daniel, lived at the time of the Babylonian Exile. He was a scribe who God used to help realign Israel with his word. Read [Ezra 1:1-8](#). Does it surprise you that a pagan king issued a decree to let the exiles return and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem? Notice the opposition they face from the local peoples in Samaria ([Ezra 4:1-5](#)). The work gets delayed.
- II. God uses several prophets to encourage their work, including Haggai. Read [Haggai 1:5-15](#). What was the connection between their harvests and their spiritual life? Is there a connection for us today? Explain your answer.
- III. This is the context in which Ezra arrives in Jerusalem. Read [Ezra 7:1-10](#). What kind of man was Ezra? How might a Bible scholar be of help to Israel as it re-establishes itself in the land. (Recall why they left the land).

Now read part of King Artaxerxes' letter to Ezra in [Ezra 7:21-26](#). What was his opinion of Ezra, and Ezra's God? How does Ezra see it in [Ezra 7:27-28](#)? Ezra often refers to God's hand. (Note [Ezra 7:6, 9, 28; 8:22,31](#)). Explain what he means by the gracious hand of God. Can you share an example of when you saw God's good hand upon your life?

- IV. Finally, read [Ezra 9:1-4](#). Why do you suppose intermarriage was such a big concern for Ezra? Note Moses' instructions to Israel in [Deuteronomy 7:1-4](#). Read Ezra's prayer ([Ezra 9:5-15](#)). How serious is this issue to Ezra? Is it an issue of concern for Christians today? Explain your answer.

Read Ezra's proclamation in [Ezra 10:7-12](#). What is his solution? How do the people respond? It is significant to note that, after the exile, Israel never had an idolatry problem again. Ezra is part of the reason for this.

Close your time in prayer. Ask God to give you a greater zeal for his word, like Ezra the scribe.



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