LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

Stirred to Return and Rebuild

From stirred hearts to faithful completion

A SIMPLE 30-MINUTE FLOW

5 min recap • 5 min Scripture • 15 min discussion • 5 min prayer

Based on the Ezra teaching series preached by Wessie van der Westhuizen

The Bridge Church Annual Family Camp
31 July-2 August 2026

AN INVITING RECAP

Wessie took the church through Ezra as a story of God stirring people out of comfortable captivity and into costly obedience. God moved a king, then moved a remnant. He named ordinary people, redeemed Zerubbabel's identity, restored worship before the rebuilding programme and showed that a legacy is what we leave in people, not merely what we leave for them.

The journey also made room for both joy and grief. Older believers remembered what had been; newer believers celebrated what God was beginning. Wessie called the generations toward one another rather than apart. Then Ezra 4 showed how disguised opposition and sustained discouragement could stop the work for sixteen years. God answered by raising Haggai and Zechariah, calling the people back to the work by His Spirit. The final encouragement was Ezra 7:10: set the heart to study God's Word, do it and teach it.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Ezra 1:5 (NIV)

5 Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty."

Ezra 7:10 (ESV)

10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

KEY SERMON POINTS

- God stirs hearts toward Himself, His Word, His likeness, His people and His mission.
- Our deepest identity is son or daughter of God; our background does not have the final word.
- Worship comes before building, and small foundations are worth praising God for.
- Old and new need one another; we move into God's future together, not as competing generations.
- Discernment matters because opposition can look friendly, and discouragement can quietly stop obedience.
- God restarts unfinished work by His Word and Spirit; the lasting pattern is study, do, teach.

THREE DISCUSSION TOPICS

1 WHERE HAS "BABYLON" BECOME COMFORTABLE?

Where can comfort, routine or disappointment make obedience feel unnecessary in our lives, and what might a genuine "yes" to God look like in that area now?

2 WHAT ARE WE BUILDING - AND IN WHAT ORDER?

How do worship, identity and generational unity change the way we rebuild family, work, relationships or church life? Where do we need to honour what was lost without resisting what God is doing now?

3 WHAT HAS DISCOURAGEMENT LEFT UNFINISHED?

Where have fear, criticism, compromise or isolation slowed something God stirred in us, and what small next step - supported by another believer - would help the work begin again by His Spirit?

PRAY TOGETHER

Use the final few minutes to pray from the sermon rather than moving into unrelated requests. Pray for:

- fresh stirring toward God, His Word, His likeness, His people and His mission;
- freedom from old labels and courage to leave a legacy in people;
- unity between longer-standing and newer believers, with honour in both directions;
- discernment and holiness where compromise or discouragement has become persuasive;
- renewed strength for unfinished work, trusting the Spirit rather than human might;
- hearts set to study the Word, do it and teach it through everyday life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

A stirred heart can cool. A set heart returns daily: study the Word, do it, teach it, and trust God's Spirit to complete the work.

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