

Connect Group Study Guide - 10

Title: This Time, We're Building It Right

Text: Ezra 10:1–4

Theme: True restoration requires tearing out what caused the break so you can rebuild on a solid, holy foundation

Series: Brick by Brick (Closing Session)

Session Objectives

- To help participants examine areas of their foundation that need to be dug out and reinforced
 - To challenge each person to confront compromise and residue courageously
 - To declare, together, that “This time, we’re building it right”
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Read the Passage Together – Ezra 10:1-4 (NIV)

(1) While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites – men, women and children – gathered around him. They too wept bitterly. (2) Then Shekariah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra, “We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us. But in spite of this, there is still hope for Israel. (3) Now let us make a covenant before our God to send away all these women and their children, in accordance with the counsel of my lord and of those who fear the commands of our God. Let it be done according to the Law. (4) Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.”

Sermon Recap

In his final sermon in the *Brick by Brick* series, Pastor Cole taught that rebuilding the right way often costs more than we expect — but it’s worth it. Ezra 10 shows us that real restoration doesn’t just fix the surface; it requires confronting compromise, making a new covenant, and stepping out with *chazaq* courage. Just like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, if we don’t deal with what’s underneath, we’ll keep leaning and eventually collapse. This time, we choose to dig deep and build it right.

Discussion Questions

Confrontation — Dig Out What’s Shifting (Ezra 10:1)

1. Pastor Cole described how residue — spiritual compromises and unresolved issues — can affect us and the generations watching us. Where do you see residue in your own life or family?
2. Why is it so easy to ignore hidden “cracks” rather than confront them?

3. What area of your spiritual foundation needs a deeper inspection right now?
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Covenant — Rebuild on What’s Right (Ezra 10:2–3)

4. Shecaniah stood up in the middle of the mess and declared, “Even now there is hope.” Why is it so powerful when someone says, “This stops with me”?
 5. Pastor Cole said, “You can’t build a holy future on a compromised foundation.” What ties, habits, or attitudes might you need to release to make space for a stronger covenant with God?
 6. Read Romans 12:2. What does renewing your mind look like in this season?
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Courage — Pay the Price, Keep the Promise (Ezra 10:4)

7. Ezra 10:4 says, “Rise up; this matter is in your hands... take courage and do it.” Pastor Cole taught about *chazaq* — holy grit. Where do you need *chazaq* courage to obey, even when it costs you something?
 8. What is one action step you can take this week to move from conviction to obedience?
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Until Next Time

- **Foundation Check:** Ask God in prayer, “*Lord, show me what I need to dig out so You can build it right.*” Journal what He reveals.
- **Covenant Reminder:** Write down your “This stops with me” declaration for any generational residue you’re breaking.
- **Courage Step:** Identify one uncomfortable but necessary action you will take this week — a conversation, a change, a surrender. Tell someone in your group for accountability.