

# Connect Group Study Guide 7

**Title:** Built by the Hand of God

**Text:** Ezra 7:6–10, 27–28

**Theme:** Recognizing, preparing for, and courageously carrying the favor of God in seasons of rebuilding

**Series:** Brick by Brick

---

## Session Objectives

- To help each person recognize the favor of God already on their life
  - To reflect on how private preparation shapes public purpose
  - To encourage one another to carry what God has given us with courage and care
- 

## Scripture Reading – Ezra 7: 6-10, 27-28 (NIV)

(6) this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. (7) Some of the Israelites, including priests, Levites, musicians, gatekeepers and temple servants, also came up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes. (8) Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. (9) He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. (10) For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. (27) Praise be to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who has put it into the king's heart to bring honor to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem in this way (28) and who had extended his good favor to me before the king and his advisers and all the king's powerful officials. Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

---

## Sermon Recap

In this week's message, we looked at Ezra — a man who didn't squander the favor and access he'd been given. Instead, he **recognized it, prepared quietly**, and **carried it forward boldly** because "*the gracious hand of his God was on him.*" Pastor Cole reminded us that favor is not just a blessing to brag about; it's a responsibility to steward. Ezra teaches us that what happens in private — studying, obeying, and living the Word — shapes what happens when we're given a platform to lead or build.

---

## Discussion Questions

### Don't Squander the Favor — Recognize & Reimagine It

1. Where do you see God's favor on your life right now — big or small?

2. What legacy, opportunity, or influence have you inherited that needs to be reimagined, not just repeated?
  3. What does it look like to handle that favor “with care”?
- 

### **Prepare Before the Platform — Build Quietly**

4. Read Ezra 7:10 again. What stands out to you about Ezra’s priorities?
  5. What “behind the scenes” work is God inviting you to lean into right now?
  6. How do you balance wanting to be ready for public opportunities with staying faithful in private?
- 

### **Carry What God Has Given You — Build Boldly**

7. Ezra said, *“Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage...”* (v. 28)  
Where do you need courage right now to step forward or speak up?
  8. What’s one thing you feel God has placed in your hands to carry for the sake of others?
  9. How can this group pray for you to carry it well — and not shrink back?
- 

### **Until Next Time**

1. **Favor Inventory:** Each morning, write down one way you see God’s favor in your life — and one step you can take to handle it wisely.
2. **Private Preparation:** Spend extra time in quiet study or prayer this week. Ask God to shape you behind the scenes for what He wants to do through you.
3. **Bold Step:** Identify one action you can take this week to move forward with courage. Share your step with someone in the group for accountability.