

Connect Group Study Guide - 8

Title: Faith With Receipts

Text: Ezra 8:24–34

Theme: Stewarding what God entrusts to you with integrity, accountability, and trust in His protection

Series: Brick by Brick

Session Objectives

- To recognize that true faith carries weight and responsibility, not just emotion
- To examine how spiritual accountability protects what God has placed in our hands
- To encourage each other to trust God to cover what we handle with care

Scripture Reading – Ezra 8:24-34 (NIV)

(24) Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, namely, Sherebiah, Hashabiah and ten of their brothers, (25) and I weighed out to them the offering of silver and gold and the articles that the king, his advisers, his officials, and all Israel present there had donated for the house of our God. (26) I weighed out to them 650 talents of silver, silver articles weighing 100 talents, 100 talents of gold, (27) 20 bowls of gold valued at 1,000 darics, and two fine articles of polished bronze, as precious as gold. (28) I said to them, “You as well as these articles are consecrated to the Lord. The silver and gold are a freewill offering to the Lord, the God of your ancestors. (29) Guard them carefully until you weigh them out in the chambers of the house of the Lord in Jerusalem before the leading priests and the Levites and the family heads of Israel.” (30) Then the priests and Levites received the silver and gold and sacred articles that had been weighed out to be taken to the house of our God in Jerusalem. (31) On the twelfth day of the first month we set out from the Ahava Canal to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way. (32) So we arrived in Jerusalem, where we rested three days. (33) On the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed out the silver and gold and the sacred articles into the hands of Meremoth son of Uriah, the priest. Eleazar son of Phinehas was with him, and so were the Levites Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui. (34) Everything was accounted for by number and weight, and the entire weight was recorded at that time.

Sermon Recap

Pastor Cole’s message reminded us that faith is more than talk — it comes with weight, with accountability, and with evidence. Ezra teaches us that when you’ve really walked by faith, you can show receipts for what you carried, how you carried it, and that you didn’t drop it along the way. He trusted God for protection, but he still set up a system of accountability for the treasures they transported. This is a picture of what it means to handle God’s blessings with integrity and to trust that what you steward well, God will cover.

Discussion Questions

Faith Carries Weight (vv. 24–27)

1. Why do you think Ezra didn't carry the treasures alone but shared the weight with others?
 2. What "holy things" has God trusted you to carry in this season (e.g., family, ministry, calling, finances, influence)?
 3. How can you treat those things with more care and intentionality?
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Faith Requires Accountability (vv. 33–34)

4. Ezra made sure everything was weighed and counted on arrival. Why is accountability so vital for people of faith?
 5. What systems or practices help you stay accountable in the areas God has called you to steward?
 6. If God asked you for a "report" on what you're carrying right now, what would your receipts look like?
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Faith Honors the Journey (v. 31)

7. Ezra says, "*The hand of our God was on us, and He delivered us...*" How does God's protection connect to how we handle what He entrusts to us?
 8. Where have you seen God protect you in situations that could have caused you to lose what you were carrying?
 9. Where do you need to trust God's hand to cover what you're carrying right now?
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Until Next Time

1. **Personal Inventory:** Take time this week to list what God has trusted you to carry — family, gifts, ministry, opportunities. Next to each, write down one way you will handle it with more care.
2. **Accountability Check:** Choose one area (like finances, spiritual growth, or relationships) and invite someone you trust to hold you accountable to "weigh it" honestly with you.
3. **Prayer Focus:** Each day, pray: "Lord, help me carry what You've given me with care, and thank You for covering me with Your hand."