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**Discussion Questions**

**INTRODUCTION**

Ezra leads a second wave of exiles back to Jerusalem. The Levites do not first respond, but then later come. Ezra leads the Israelites in prayer and fasting for a safe journey. They successfully make it to Jerusalem safely and with all their goods, climaxing with worship at the Temple.

**DISCUSSION & APPLICATION**

What in the text/sermon convicted you? What led you to worship Christ?

**1. Are you delighting in God? (Ezra 8:1-20)**

What makes sin so attractive? Why might you delight more in "Babylon" than in following God? Can you relate to the Levites, why or why not? How should we fight temptation?

**2. Are you trusting in God? (Ezra 8:21-23)**

Do you agree that trusting in God for deliverance of sin is most important? In what ways do you tend to trust in your own religious performance? How can you better put God's power on display? What does active trust look like for daily living?

**3. Are you faithful with what God has given you? (Ezra 8:24-34)**

What gifts do you have that you currently are not utilizing? What influence do you have that you currently are not impacting for the gospel? Do you believe the gospel is the most important possession that you have? What does faithful stewardship of the gospel look like?

**4. Are you building your life on worship? (Ezra 8:35-36)**

Why do you think worship must be everything for us? What happens when we do not build our lives on worship? For your life to be a blazing burnt offering, what would need to change? Does it excite you to think about worship in the New Heavens and New Earth?

**5. How did Jesus perfectly fulfill each of these questions (1-4)?**