

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Ezra

1. Taking a stand for the truth is seldom popular! Explain the situation in Judah as described in Ezra 4:1-5ff in terms of the following:
 - a) Request
 - b) Rejection
 - c) Resistance

What forms did the resistance to the returning Jews take? How is that similar today?

What projects/issues today might Christians decline to join with others in promotion or implementation? What are the chances that declining such participation would result in rejection or persecution? When pressured to give in to principles that go counter to God's will, how should we react... what should we do?

2. Read Ezra's prayer in Ezra 9:6-15. Analyze each paragraph by giving it a title:
 - a) vs. 6-7:
 - b) vs. 8-9:
 - c) vs. 10-12:
 - d) vs. 13-15

Take 3-5 minutes and write your own prayer addressing today's issues, using Ezra's prayer as a model:

3. Write your memory passage below:
4. Talk through with a partner what you know about Ezra. Identify TWO traits in Ezra that you would like to cultivate further in yourself or encourage others to develop:
5. Would Ezra be a good book to study as a Bible Class prior to embarking on a church building project? Why or why not?