

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of February 8, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Ezra deals with the issue of intermarriage among the Israelite people.

**This Week's Text:** Ezra 9 & 10

*"Worldly sorrow is about getting busted and regretting the consequences. On the outside it may look like godly sorrow, but it doesn't lead to repentance and a hatred of sin. Paul is very clear to warn us, "Worldly sorrow in the end leads to death." But godly sorrow results in repentance and putting sin to death, which leads to life."* **Matt Chandler**

*"Putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit – the daily practice of killing sin in your life – is the result of being justified and the evidence that you are justified by faith alone apart from works of the law. If you are making war on your sin, and walking by the Spirit, then you know that you have been united with Christ by faith alone. And if you have been united to Christ, then his blood and righteousness provide the unshakable ground of your justification."* **John Piper**

**Related Texts:** Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Romans 8:13; 11:1-6; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What's the context of Ezra 9-10?
- What's the nature of the officials' complaint? Reference Ezra 9:1-2.
- Read Ezra 7:10. How would this tie into the officials coming forward about Israel's sin?
  - What does this teach us about the Word of God?
- What is the real "abomination" or sin of the people? Why did God forbid intermarriage? Reference Deuteronomy 7:1-4.
- How did Israel's sin disrupt their mission as God's people?
- What things/gods are taking you off mission?
- At hearing about Israel's sin, Ezra tears his clothes and rips out his beard. Are you grieved by sin that dishonors and grieves God?
- What is the significance of Ezra's posture before God? What does it evidence about his character?
- What does Ezra's prayer reveal about the nature of God?

- What thanksgiving does Ezra evoke in his prayer? Reference Ezra 9:9-10.
- Discuss how God has blessed you and how He has extended His goodness and grace to you.
- What does Ezra mean by the word "remnant"? Reference Ezra 9:13, 15.
- What was Israel's response to their sin in light of God's grace Reference Ezra 10:1-4.
  - What is the appropriate response when God convicts us of sin?
- Is the decision to "put away all these wives and their children" prescriptive or descriptive? Reference Ezra 10:13 and 1 Corinthians 7:12-16.
  - What are some other examples of both descriptive and prescriptive events in scripture?
- What principle for relationships can we derive from this passage in light of the totality of Scripture? Reference 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
- Israel took great measures to kill their sin. How can we daily put our sin to death? What action steps are you taking to kill sin?
- How can we within our community group help one another deal with sin?
- How does Ezra 9-10 point to Jesus?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- Ezra tore his clothes and ripped out his hair over the sin of Israel. Jesus is the greater and better Ezra His body was broken and torn and sacrificed on the cross over the sin of the world to make a once and for all Atonement for sin.
- Ezra confessed and prayed the sins of Israel before God. Jesus is the greater and perfect mediator who pleads on our behalf.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Confess, repent, and rejoice in the forgiveness you've been given in Christ.
- Pray for our church, that we would a people who tremble at the words of God.
- Pray for our communities, that they would see the goodness of God and respond to the Gospel.

**Next Week's Text:** Nehemiah 1