

## **Ezra: Return**

**Text:** Ezra 1:1-10

**Purpose:** *The next 9 weeks we will look at God's redeeming plan to bring His people back to Himself in the books of Ezra & Nehemiah. It's a story about God rebuilding people's lives.*

**Opening Question:** *When assembling something are you a 'follow the directions' person or 'figure it out as you go' person?*

**Read and Discuss:** Ezra 1:1-10

1. *What was Cyrus' message to the Israelites? How do you think his message was received?*
2. *What does it say about God that He wants to restore Israel?*
3. *What was God's promise in verses 11-12? What do you think it was like to believe God's promise for 70 years?*
4. *What promise is hard for you to hold on to?*
5. *In verses 10-13 there are mixed emotions as God's people return to their homeland and rebuild. Some lament, some sing songs of joy. As you think about this season we are in, what do you lament? What are you joyful about?*
6. *Where do you need to see God rebuilding in your life? How can we partner with Him in that?*