

**Sunday, August 29, 2021**

*NEW SERIES- "LEANING FORWARD"*- Avoiding the pitfalls of starting over. This short series will look at the ministries of Ezra and Nehemiah and how they and others tried to rebuild Jerusalem after being in exile for 70 years. The successes, and failures they encountered, and what we can learn.



**Do you thrive on chaos or order? Why?**

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**Ezra 1-6 documents the beginning of the return of Israel after the exile. God begins by using Zerubbabel to re-establish worship. Is worship for me a destination in my spiritual life, or transition point?**

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**Ezra 7** God now uses Ezra in the next chapter of His restart. He uses him to teach and instruct because Israel has forgotten God's teachings. Read Jeremiah 44:23. Which of God's teachings have I ignored or neglected in my life? How has that affected me?

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**Read Ezra 7:10.** Ezra is used because he knows, lives and able to teach. In regards to God's teaching, which of these do I do the best with? Which do I struggle the most?

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**Read Acts 17:11.** God saw the Israelites lack of knowledge as an obstacle to their being rebuilt. Where do I think my knowledge of God's teachings are lacking?

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**Read and take time to reflect on Matthew 28, "The Great Commission."** What is God saying to me about my growth as a disciple, and my discipleship of someone else?

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**This week, "What will I do with what I have just heard?" "With whom will I share what I have learned?"**