

**Built for Worship**  
**Home again – Ezra 8:1-36**

**The blessing of coming home to Jesus**

*“What’s the best news you’ve ever heard?”*

“The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him” (v.18, 22, 31)

**God’s hand of blessing brings people together for mission (v.1-14)**

“These are the family heads and those registered with them who came up with me from Babylon during the reign of King Artaxerxes” (v.1)

PBC: “Growing lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ by being a Christian, Caring, Community” – *through the coronavirus pandemic!*

**God’s hand of blessing equips his people for service (v.15-20)**

“Bring attendants to us for the house of our God” (v.17)

“You are consecrated to the LORD” (v.28)

**God’s hand of blessing brings us great riches (v.24-30)**

Silver, gold, and bronze (v.26-27)

“Every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3)

**God’s hand of blessing protects us on our journey (v.21-23, 31-36)**

“The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way. So we arrived in Jerusalem... everything was accounted for” (v.31-32, 34)

## **Digging Deeper questions for personal reflection and discussion**

### **God's hand of blessing brings people together for mission (v.1-14)**

- In what way were the returning group of people in Ezra 8 joining in mission together?
- When you think of our church, do you see us as a people brought together by God for a particular mission?
- How might we fulfil the mission God's given us right now, to grow each other as 'lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ?' How might we also fulfil that mission by seeking to reach those who don't yet know Jesus to become his disciples too?

### **God's hand of blessing equips his people for service (v.15-20)**

- Why did Ezra need to find and recruit some Levites for the journey back to Jerusalem?
- Do you believe that God has 'consecrated' you for His service, whatever that might look like at this time? How can you embrace the opportunities in this season?

### **God's hand of blessing brings us great riches (v.24-30)**

- What were the riches that God's people were blessed with in this chapter?
- Should Christians expect to be blessed by God with material riches in the way that Ezra and the people were?
- Why are the riches we receive in Christ (see Ephesians 1:3-14) better and of more worth than anything in this world?
- How can you learn to "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt 6:20), whilst living in this world?

### **God's hand of blessing protects us on our journey (v.21-23, 31-36)**

- If God had already made promises to Ezra, why did he need to fast and pray, for protection for the journey?
- What does that teach us about our relationship with God?
- How will you trust Jesus to continue to protect you on your journey to your true home in heaven?