



**August 16, 2020**

**Ezra 7—Mark Mitchell**

1. Read Ezra Chapter 7. In verses 1-5 we read that Ezra was a priest. What thoughts come to your mind when you think of someone fulfilling a role of a priest in your life? What does it mean to you that the writer of Hebrews says that Jesus is our great High Priest? (Hebrews 4:14-16)
2. Mark said that when we look into Scripture we see something of ourselves. When you read the stories of real people in the Bible, whom do you most identify with?
3. Ezra was a student of God's Word. What challenges do you face that hold you back from becoming a better student of God's Word?
4. Does Ezra's example of acting with courage and faith encourage you during this COVID season? In what way might you take more initiative to serve God?

5. Bryan Chapell writes, *“God is the hero of every text.”* And Ezra 7 says three times that *“The good hand of God was on us.”* How does this change your perception of your own spiritual formation and service for Him?
  
6. What does it look like to be both completely dependent on God and at the same time not passive about taking initiative?
  
7. Discuss as a group this final quote from Mark’s sermon:

*“If we are able to accomplish anything of lasting value in our life, it’ll be because the good hand of God is on us. And that’s the heart of the gospel—God has done for us what we couldn’t do ourselves. It’s true when it comes to our salvation, and it’s true when it comes to just living our life.”*