

JOIN THE JOURNEY™

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EZRA 4

WEEK 46

“Mission Impossible”

Ezra 4:4

“Then the local people began to discourage the people of Judah and to dishearten them from building.”

❖ ICE BREAKER

1. Have you ever tried to complete a project but lost momentum because you were distracted? If so, explain what happened.

❖ DISCUSSION

In Ezra 4, we learn that the people of Judah and Jerusalem (who had survived many years of destruction and captivity), decided to honor the Lord by rebuilding the temple. Their enemies, living in the surrounding cities, grew fearful of this mission and did everything they could to stop the Jews.

2. What are your spiritual goals for this year (scripture memory, devotional plan, service opportunities, etc)?
3. Why are these goals important to you?
4. How can you ensure that you pursue God’s heart with the goals you have set?
5. What are you fighting against in order to achieve these goals (laziness, fear, people-pleasing, doubt, etc.)?
6. What is your response to these obstacles? Could you respond any better?
7. Why do you think God allows us to experience obstacles and distractions if the things we want to attain are good? How has He used those moments of frustration in your life?
8. In Ezra 5, the Jews received several different forms of support: inspiring words of affirmation, financial resources, and spiritual leadership. What help do you need in order to achieve your goals? How can this group be of support to you?

❖ CASE STUDY

Based upon what we just studied in Ezra 4, how would you respond to the following situation?

Your friend made a goal to journal her prayers every morning, but for the last month, she has felt discouraged as she continues to face distractions. She is able to have her quiet time but never seems to find time to write in her journal. What advice would you give her? What elements of her life need to be considered in order for her to set tangible goals? How could you process through the desired end and encourage your friend to keep pursuing what God has placed on her heart? What insight from scripture could you give her about setting goals and fighting distractions?

