

8-23 Connect Group Lesson

Welcome

Opening Question: Do you have any unusual dreams that you remember? Or, how often do you remember your dreams?

Worship

Word

The book of Zechariah is divided into two distinct parts. The first part contains a challenge to the people followed by a number of visions from Zechariah. The second portion speaks of the coming Messiah and His kingdom. In our study today, we are going to look at a few different portions of the book talking about some of the major themes within.

Read Zechariah 1:1-6

- 1) What do we learn about Zechariah? How would you summarize his message?
- 2) What was the problem with people's fathers?
- 3) Read Zechariah 7:8-11 to see the condemnation against the former generations. This is also a call to live correctly for the present generation.
- 4) Look at verse 6. What is the response of the people?

Read Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

- 1) What positive things does the Lord declare to the people/Jerusalem?
- 2) Look at verse 8. What correlation do you see between God's blessing and the people's righteousness? Read also Zechariah 6:15.
- 3) How would these verses have been an encouragement to you if you had been living in Jerusalem during this rebuilding period?
- 4) What else stands out to you from these verses?

Digging Deeper:

- 1) The people in Jerusalem were trying to rebuild. Why was it important for them to remember the failures of the past?
- 2) It is easy to repeat the sins of past generations and the failings of the culture around us. What things can we do to live differently, in a way that pleases the Lord?
- 3) Even believers can forget that their behavior brings consequences, for blessing or discipline. Why is it important for us to remember this?
- 4) (Optional, if time) The book of Zechariah can be a difficult read, speaking about different points of the future with fantastic imagery. But, if you take the time for a longer and serious study, there is great encouragement and instruction. The last part of the book of Zechariah speaks of the coming Messiah, the great tribulation and the future Messianic Kingdom.

These prophecies spoke of future events well beyond the time of the original listeners. Some of these are things that still have not happened. Read a few select verses as a sampling of what Zechariah spoke about: **Zechariah 9:9, 12:1-4, 12:10, 14:1-5.**

Works

As summer break is nearing an end, consider how your group might reach out to new people this coming year. Pray for opportunities to invite new people. Pray also for the unsaved people in your lives.