

STUDY GUIDE

STIR 9.28.14

[set up]

What is something God has taught you this last week in your time with Him? Or how have you seen Him show up in your life in a special way this last week?

Has there been a time when you felt God stir or impress a certain call or emphasis in your heart? Did you respond to it or not? If so, how did you act on what God stirred in you?

[digging deeper]

Read Ezra 1:1-6. This is part of the account of God calling the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Jewish Temple that had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC. Shortly after Persia defeated Babylon, Cyrus, King of Persia issued the decree to rebuild the temple. For more on this you can find a quick explanation at <http://www.gotquestions.org/Zerubbabel-second-temple.html>

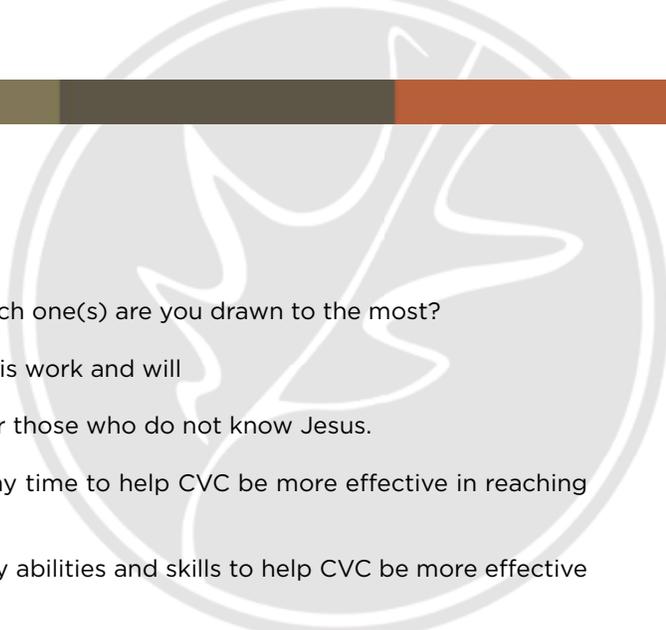
Does it surprise you that God stirred up the heart of a pagan king to do His work, in this case to rebuild the temple? Can God still use unbelieving leaders today to accomplish His work in the world?

What specific actions came from the people after God stirred their hearts to go and build the temple?

We see a couple more instances in Judges 13:24-25 & Haggai 1:12-14 where God stirred up the heart of His people. What pattern do you see taking place after God stirs up the hearts of the people? What lessons can we learn here about God using man to do His work?

This last weekend Pastor Chad shared his heart about what God has recently been stirring in his heart for CVC and his prayer of what God will stir up in our hearts. To connect with what was shared this last weekend read Matt. 28:19-20. This is known as the "Great Commission". Jesus commissioned His followers to share the gospel (the good news of forgiveness of sins exclusively through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ). Why is it though that the "Great Commission" often becomes the "Great Omission" from the lives of followers of Christ and churches? How can you as an individual and we as a church keep the "main thing the main thing"? (i.e. reaching out to others who don't know Christ)? For more on this theme read Mark 16:15; Luke 24:45-47 and Romans 10:13-15

What about Pastor Chad's message on Sunday encouraged you and excited you regarding the continued and future direction of CVC? How do you see yourself playing a key role? Just like the Jews in Ezra, what actions will be needed of us as a community of believers to effectively increase our outreach in Northeast Ohio? What adjustments or increases will be needed by you as an individual or family?



[living it out]

Here are some action points to take away. They are all needed, but which one(s) are you drawn to the most?

- I commit to pray that God will stir up the hearts of CVC to do His work and will
- I will pray that God will increase the burden in my/our hearts for those who do not know Jesus.
- I will pray and consider how I can increase the investment of my time to help CVC be more effective in reaching and growing those who do not know Jesus.
- I will pray and consider how I can increase the investment of my abilities and skills to help CVC be more effective in reaching and growing those who do not know Jesus.
- I will pray and consider how I can increase the investment of my money and resources to help CVC be more effective in reaching and growing those who do not know Jesus.

On October 5th CVC is starting a series on the Beatitudes. Who is someone you could invite to this teaching series?