

A Time for Re-Construction

Small Group Discussion & Reflection Guide

Opening Prayer

Invite the group to pray for honesty, gentleness, and openness to how God may be calling them—personally and communally—into rebuilding.

1. Entering the Biblical Story

The sermon situates our present moment within Israel's experience of exile and rebuilding, particularly in Ezra and Nehemiah.

- What stood out to you about how Israel returned from exile changed—not restored to what once was, but becoming something new?
- Why do you think God allowed exile before rebuilding?
- How does seeing our lives or our church as part of God's long story change how we understand discouragement?

2. Naming Weariness and Trauma Honestly

- Where do you recognize weariness in your own life right now?
- What does it mean to normalize brokenness in a community?
- How does Scripture give permission to name pain without losing hope?

3. The Theology of Re-Construction

- What is the difference between rebuilding and restoring?
- Can you think of a time when God rebuilt something differently than you expected?
- How does this challenge assumptions about success or healthy church?

4. Practices of Rebuilding

Do what you can:

- What small faithful actions are possible now?

Read the Bible together:

- How does communal Scripture shape identity?

Ignore discouragers:

- How do we discern critique from discouragement?

Be doers of the Word:

- What might obedience look like before clarity?

5. Christ at the Center

- How does Jesus embody reconstruction rather than restoration?
- How does the cross reshape loss and new life?

6. From Rebuilding to Mission

- How might a rebuilt community become a sign of hope?
- What does mission look like when we are still rebuilding?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

Invite participants to reflect:

- One place God may be rebuilding in me is...
- One small step of faith I feel called to take is...
- One thing I want to entrust to God is...