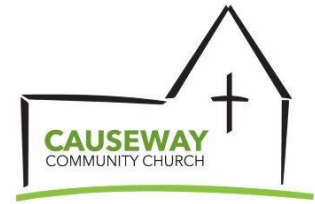


EZRA 1

SUNDAY 19th APRIL



BIBLE

EZRA 1

Ask God for help for yourself and the church as we read His word
Read Ezra 1

LISTEN

SERMON BY SPENCER

Please click [here](#) to listen to the sermon

REFLECTION

QUESTIONS AND NOTES

- Describe when you have seen God change someone or a church
- What are our expectations of the church growing?
- God moves to fulfill His promises
 - What is the setting of Ezra?
 - Look up Jeremiah 29:10-14, how do you think the people responded to this promise?
 - How do we respond to the promises of God? What promises do you struggle to believe?
- God moves to set the scene
 - How does God moving the heart of Cyrus help God fulfil his purposes?
 - What is surprising about how he acts?
 - Read 1 Tim 2:1-4, how do these two passages affect our motivation to pray for leaders?
- God moves His people
 - What does God move his people to do in the passage?
 - What is the aim of this?
 - How might God be wanting us to respond to this season?

→ Summarise and Apply

- What in this passage leads us to worship Jesus?
- What do we learn about ourselves from this passage? How does it lead us to give thanks or repent?
- How might this help us share the good news with our friends and neighbours who don't know Jesus?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO GOD IN PRAISE AND PLEADING

Use Paul's Prayer from Ephesians 3 to help you structure your prayers. Pray in response to the passage, for yourself, the church and others.

14 *For this reason I kneel before the Father, **15** from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. **16** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **18** may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

20 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*