

Building a Community

Ezra 7 and 8

1. The Leader (chapter 7)

One who will _____ God's Word

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2. The Led (chapter 8)

People willing to _____ in the house of God (v15-20)

People willing to _____ God in faith (v21-23)

People willing to be wholeheartedly _____ to God
(v24-30)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Who is the best leader you've served under? What made him/her that way?
2. Think of a time when you led a group of people. What were some of the challenges? What makes leading people difficult?
3. What was Ezra's attitude toward God's Word, according to Ezra 7:10? What three things did he do with it? To what degree do you do those three things? How can you improve on that this week?
4. Have you found a place of service in the body of Christ here at River Hills? What do you need to do to find one (identify your gifts, talk to a leader, get permission, etc.)?
5. What was a key difference between Ezra and Nehemiah (compare Ezra 8:22 and Nehemiah 2:7)? Which approach would you take? Does it strike you that Scripture doesn't criticize the difference between the approaches each of these men took? What does that suggest for us?
6. What risks has God asked you to take for Him? What has been your response? Is He asking you to take one now?
7. Ask yourself this: "If I were really set apart for God, what would be different about my life?" What can you do this week to make a contribution to the community of faith at River Hills?
8. Have you ever tried prayer with fasting? How did it go? Are you willing to do it this week for the pastoral search?