

HEROES

- June 7 -----Volunteer Sunday
- June 14 -----Josiah - the Boy that Trusted God
- June 21 ----- Paul Had It
- June 28 -----Ezra - Leading from the Knees
- July 5 ----- David - the Heart of a Passionate Leader

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GOD'S WORD THIS WEEK



19051 South Halsted St. | Glenwood, IL 60425

June 28, 2009
 Worship Services
 9:00am and 10:30am

CURRENT SERIES: Heroes
 TODAY'S MESSAGE: Ezra - Leading from the Knees
 BROUGHT BY: Pastor Dennis Colton
 BIBLE BASIS: Ezra 9-10

He took sin _____ and _____.

When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. (Ezra 9:3)

He turned to the Lord in _____.

Then, at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the Lord my God and prayed: (Ezra 9:5)

Honest repentance is _____.

While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women, and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly. (Ezra 10:1)

Action Steps:

1. Ask God to help you see the world through _____.
2. Study _____.
3. Lead from your _____ in _____.

Week of June 28, 2009

Community Group meetings various times and places throughout the week.

If you are not already in a Community Group, stop by the Connection Booth or call the church office: 708-709-0100.

Conversation...Ezra-This book chronicles the restoration of Israel after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Ezra is often seen as the "father of Judaism" because he promotes a way of life renewed by and centered on the unswerving allegiance to the Torah. Ezra's policies saved Judaism from oblivion in this crucial period of transitions.

Breaking the Ice

1. In your growing up years, what did "confession" mean to you? What was required? How often? Who was involved? Why? Do you write down any of your prayers? Why?

Digging In

2. Share the notes you took during Sunday's sermon with the rest of the group. Did any of you have the same thoughts? Was the sermon helpful in your situation?
3. Read Ezra 9 as a group.
4. What is the occasion for this time of corporate confession?
5. How do the Israelites prepare for this? Why do they "separate themselves from all foreigners"?
6. What is the relationship between the three parts of their worship: instruction from the Word, confession of sin, and praise of God?
7. Where is God at work in their present situation?
8. How do the people think God treated them?
9. What did they say was the source of their problems?

Reflecting

10. How does a Christian today show sincerity in one's confession and repentance of sin?
11. What is the "great distress" from which you want God to deliver you?

Lifting Up

12. Discuss what to include as you pray collectively as a group.
13. Pray for others in your church and community that need God during these challenging times.

The Journey

To assist in your daily readings, here are some questions to help reflect on what is being read each day. These questions will help you apply what is read to your life situation. It is our hope that this journey will help everyone grow in their spiritual development.

June 29-July 4, 2009

Job 33

At what points does Elihu restate Job's position most accurately? At what points does he slant Job's position? In what ways does Elihu show that God speaks? Which of these ways seems most intelligible and credible to you? Why should Job listen to Elihu?

Job 34

Why does Elihu rush to God's defense? From Elihu's perspective, who sets the ground rules for justice? How does Elihu characterize the way that God administers justice in this world? Does God's silence mean justice?

Job 35

How does sin affect our relationship and righteousness with God? Why does Elihu say that God hasn't answered some prayers?

Job 36

Is Elihu being virtuous or presumptuous in claiming to speak for God, and to speak for him so perfectly? Why is he striving to prove God innocent? Elihu says that the righteous are rewarded and sinners are punished. How does that contrast with what Job has been claiming? What are the benefits of God's discipline? What does Elihu say about God that is true and worthy of full acceptance?

Job 37

Why does Elihu's heart "leap"? How does he describe God's voice? How does God grab our attention? How does God "show his love"?

Job 38

What does it mean for Job to meet God in the storm? How is Job proven wrong about what would happen if he were to meet God face to face? What do you think is the net effect on Job of God's dumfounding questions?