



“The Long Expected King”

WEEK OF: December 29th, 2024



GATHER

What is something you're expectant for in 2025?



GROW

Take a moment to pray and/or [worship](#) in order to shift the focus to God.

RECAP: Bible Translator Dr. Carl Follingstad continued the “King of Kings” series, taking a look at Ezra/Nehemiah in post-exile times and how our identity is tied to the same Messiah the Israelites were waiting for.

1. **Read Ezra 3:1-4 NLT.** How did the people ground their identity in God and their shared work?
2. How did that help them to endure through their difficult context?
3. **Read Ezra 3:10-13 NLT.** What caused both mourning and rejoicing among the people?
4. How do we create space in our Community Group for both joy and grief to connect us to God and each other?
5. **Read Nehemiah 8:10 NLT.** What does it mean to be God's joy? How does that encourage you?
6. **Read Nehemiah 8:1-3,12 NLT.** What stands out to you about how the people reacted to God's Word? How does that shift your own perspective towards to the Word?



GO

Read Ezekiel 36:26-28. How do you sense God wanting to renew your heart and spirit right now? Is there anything specific God is asking you to take action in this week?



GIVE

Focus on meeting the needs inside the group. Ask for prayer requests and spend time praying for one another.