



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 7

Glorious Ruins

Ezra 9:8-9

"Let the ruins come to life" is a glorious illustration of how God can take ruins and bring them to life. In our own lives, ruins might be in the form of ruined finances, relationships, reputations or even visions and dreams. They are the parts of our lives that represent better days, past glory or perhaps even sheer neglect. But ruins can be rebuilt and in order to start rebuilding we need to understand the importance of praise, prophetic and personal power in our lives.

Praise power is when we praise God in the face of ruin, it is one thing to praise God after a miracle has occurred but it is a powerful thing to praise God in the middle of adversity or trouble, while we are still waiting for a miracle to come our way.

Prophetic power is when we hear the voice of the Lord and allow it to speak into our circumstances. Prophetic power doesn't have to be a direct prophecy given by someone else. Often times it is simply allowing God to speak directly to us through His Word. We should never underestimate the importance of God's voice when it comes to rebuilding the ruins.

Personal power stems from our devotion to God, the time we spend seeking Him and allowing Him to speak into our spirits. Understand the power of seeking God and entrusting Him with the ruins that need rebuilding.

So start praising God, let His Word speak to you, fall in love with His Word and commit to live out His Word and watch the ruins come to life!

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

ICEBREAKER: Who was your favourite music group when you were in high school?

Q: What images come to mind when you hear the word "ruins"?

Q: How can that image of "ruins" be applied to a person's life?

Q: Share with the group a time or situation where you felt that an area of your life was headed toward ruin. On the back of that, how did God show up?

Q: What do you think of the idea of praising God in the midst of adversity and ruin, before you see the breakthrough?

Q: Give an example of how following a prophetic word spoken into or over your life changed your circumstances?

Q: What does the idea of "ruins coming to life" have to do with revival and the season we are in as a church? (**Leader's Tip:** Revival is a time of renewal and revitalisation).

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BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a biblical worldview.

Q. What passages of scripture or biblical examples show us that God is in the business of rebuilding lives? (**Eg:** Gen 12:3, Jer 29:11, Job, Israel's deliverance from Egypt, Jesus' healing of the sick and afflicted).

Read Habakkuk 3:17-18

Q. What stance towards God does this passage encourage us to take in adversity?

Q. Why is praising and rejoicing in God during adversity and trial an important practice? What does it achieve?

Q. How can praise turn a situation around? Can you give a biblical example? (**Eg:** Paul in prison (Acts 16), Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 20))

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3

Q. What does this passage tell us about how a prophetic word can turn a circumstance around?

Q. What guidelines should we follow when we receive a personal prophecy?

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

Q: Can you think of some inspiring biblical or historical examples of great leadership during adversity?

Q: What should be our goal when leading our team, group or organization in a time of adversity?

Q: What qualities allow us to successfully lead others through adversity?

Q: How do we successfully lead others when there is adversity in our own lives?

Q: Who inspires you with their leadership in difficult times? Why?

Strategising

Spend time with your leaders coming up with plans for:

- Multiplying connect groups
- Growing leaders

PRAY TOGETHER

- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Nation Builders Faith Goal
- New Connect Group Leaders