



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 8

Glorious Ruins (Part 2)

Ezra 9:8-9

Humanity takes things that are glorious and ruins them, while God takes what is ruined and makes it glorious. The church of Jesus Christ is about pursuing the will of God and seeing ruins come to life as people's lives are changed for His purpose.

Because of sin, this world and our lives fall into ruins. God created Eden to have fellowship with people. We all became something less than glorious, we became slaves to sin, but God did not forsake us in our bondage. Instead he extended mercy to us to revive us, to repair God's house and rebuild its ruins.

In life, we make choices and decisions that can lead to ruined credibility, reputations, character, relationships, finances, potential, and opportunities – but when we bring to God what is broken and devastated, what is in ashes, He brings beauty to it.

God is a builder, He builds people's lives. Jesus gave his life for the church to restore lives, relationships, and the church to an even greater glory than ever before. God asks us to have eyes that are not consumed with building what is ours as individuals, but eyes that see what is important to Him – building His church.

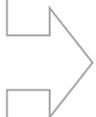
We have physical buildings for one reason: for what God wants to build in people's lives. It's not the building that is glorious; it's what the building holds. His presence is in people's hearts and lives, that is where His glory is. I pray we will always be a church that grows and expands and cares about what God cares about: seeing lives that are in ruins being made glorious.

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

ICEBREAKER: What is the best gift you've ever received? (Can't be spiritual).

- Q:** Tell a funny story from your life about some special thing that got ruined – e.g. a special event, a romantic dinner, a birthday party, efforts to impress a certain someone, etc.
- Q:** What ruined part of your life was most transformed when you became a Christian? Tell us about it.
- Q:** Sometimes God can so transform a ruined part of our lives that it becomes a source of ministry and encouragement to others. Do you have such a thing in your own life? Tell us about it.
- Q:** Share a story of how God has used you to rebuild the ruins of someone else's life.
- Q:** How has God used the Church to rebuild ruined places in your life?
- Q:** How can we become more useful to God in rebuilding the ruins in other people's lives?

More
over the
page





I LOVE MY CONNECT

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

Q. Share some scriptures that have laid the foundation for your faith and led to renewal and restoration in your life.

Read Colossians 3:1-17

Q. This passage appears to give a road map for personal transformation. What are the key steps or features of this process? (**Leader's Tip:** v1-2 Set your heart & minds on heavenly things; v5-11 Put off the old life; v12-14 Put on the new life; v15-17 Live with others in peace, truth & gratitude).

Q. Talk through what each of these stages involves, and how to get them working in our lives.

Q. Describe some parts of your life where you have seen this process at work.

Q. What is the relationship between what we do and what God does when we are seeking to transform our rebuild our lives?

Q. When seeking to have an area of our lives rebuilt, what is the relationship between making an internal change in us and seeing a change in our external circumstances?

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

Q: Has anyone on your team recently shared an area of personal ruin with you? How can you support and lead them to restoration?

Q: What kind of atmosphere does a group or team need to have so that the ruined parts of people's lives can be rebuilt?

Q: What can we do as a leader to cultivate that atmosphere?

Q: How do we lead people so that they can continue to deliver results in ministry or work at the same time as the ruined parts of their life are being rebuilt?

Q: How do we continue to lead at a high level when ruined areas of our own lives are being rebuilt?

Strategising

Spend time with your leaders coming up with plans for:

- Multiplying connect groups
- Growing leaders

PRAY TOGETHER

- Decisions for Jesus in our Services
- Mums & Families to join us in church for Mother's Day