

Connection Group Participant Guide

April 18, 2021

Zechariah 1:1-6

Key Principles

Nearly 20 years after returning from the Babylonian exile in the time of Cyrus (538 B.C.), God's people were discouraged. The foundation of the temple had been laid shortly after the initial return, in 536 B.C., but powerful opposition had prevented any further progress on rebuilding the temple. And there was little evidence of the kind of spiritual renewal that the earlier prophets had anticipated. Jewish sovereignty had not been restored. A moral reformation of the people had not occurred. Jerusalem was still only partially rebuilt and had no significance among the surrounding nations. Many viewed faithful obedience as useless. It seemed to make more sense to forget God and to pursue the best life possible.

Highlight

What is Zechariah commanded to say to the people? (Zech. 1:3) How did the people respond to Zechariah's call to return to the Lord? (Zech. 1:6)

Explain

So how does that work, "Return to Me" and "God will return to them?" (Zech. 1:3). What question does the Lord ask concerning His words and His statutes? What do you think this means? (Zech. 1:6)

Apply

Try to find an area in your life that you hear God but don't change according to His expectations. Repent and make your heart more sensitive to God by changing!

Respond in Prayer

Read through Matthew 5:3-12 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

