

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Enduring Spiritual Opposition | Ezra 4

## WORSHIP & WALK

### 1. REVIEW + UNDERSTAND

1. Seek to begin your time with worship.
2. Was anyone in your group here in the core days of the church? Or the middle school days? How did you see God at work building this church in those days?
3. Read Ezra 4 and pray for your time together.
4. Consider giving everyone 5 minutes to write out one sentence that embodies the meaning of this whole chapter. Ask volunteers to share their sentence.

### 2. ASSESS + APPLY

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. What are ways we become more attuned to spiritual opposition? How do we do this while choosing to fear God alone?
2. How does the theme of the fear of the Lord found in Scripture come to bear on Ezra 4? (Check out the quotations below)
3. Are you consistently putting on the armor of God to resist the enemy?
4. What is most discouraging in your walk with God right now? After sharing, let one other group member pray against that thing. Encourage one another.
5. What is your prayer life like currently? How can we grow together in this spiritual discipline?

Quotes out of Michael Reeve's book, *Rejoice and Tremble*:

On the fear of the Father: "...[T]he filial fear the Son shares with us is quite different from the sinner's dread of God and dread of punishment. It is an adoration of God that dreads sin itself, not just its punishment, for it has come to treasure God and so loathe all that is ungodly. As Calvin put it, the 'pious mind' restrains itself from sinning, not out of dread of punishment alone; but because it loves and reveres God as Father, it worships and adores him as Lord. Even if there were no hell, it would still shudder at offending him alone."

"for the filial fear of God is the soul of godliness and the essence of the new life implanted by the Spirit. It is the ultimate affection and the very aroma of heaven. It is the affection that expels our sinful fears and our anxieties. It is the affection that expels spiritual lethargy. To grow in this sweet and quaking wonder at God is to taste heaven now."

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Do you have any good photos of your discipleship group? Please email them to [jeremy@redeemberbible.church](mailto:jeremy@redeemberbible.church)

I (Jeremy) may use them in the future for social media or in the DG Leader Newsletter.

## PRAYERS + APPLICATIONS

## LOOKING AHEAD

Read next week's passage and ask: What does it say? What does it mean? How should I respond?

## Ezra 5-6

### WORK

How should this message affect how you serve one another?

### WITNESS

How should this message affect how you share the Gospel?