

EMERGING FROM THE STORM

Week Four—Rebuild

DAY ONE

As you begin this week's reflections, ask the Lord for wisdom and the courage to reprioritize, rebuild, and to reorient your life around your relationship with him.

Read Ezra 3:1-7 and, if you took notes during Sunday's message, review your sermon notes.

What stands out to you? How are you being impacted by the text and/or message from Sunday?

Think back to a time or season when you felt like you were really spiritually growing. Jot down some notes in the space below about that time in your life: when was it? What was it like? What prompted the growth?

As you reflect on that season of growth, what were some of the spiritual habits you were practicing at the time that contributed to that growth?

What else contributed to that time being a season of growth?

In this week of reflections, we will spend time reviewing our life's priorities and schedule, seeking to orient our lives more and more around our relationship with Jesus. As you go into this week, ask the Lord to give you spiritual habits that will take you deeper in relationship with him.

DAY TWO

As you begin today, ask the Lord to reveal to you your priorities. Ask him to show you what your time and schedule reveal are actually the most important things to you.

Use Psalm 139:23-24 as part of your prayer today.

Watch this video ([click here](#)) about priorities, then respond to the questions below.

How were you impacted by the video? What stood out to you?

In the video (the original illustration comes from author Stephen Covey), the big rocks are the most important things in life—those things around which everything else ought to be arranged. The smaller rocks are important, too, but less-so; perhaps they are urgent things, necessary things, but they are not the ultimate things. Finally, there is the sand. The sand is everything else that we spend time on. Much of those things are neither important nor urgent, but they are part of our lives and take up much of our time.

Pray and think through your life. What are the big rocks of your life? What are the most important things around which you want to orient everything else?

What are the smaller rocks? What are the other less important, but still essential, things in your life?

What is the sand, the other things that fill your time?

As you consider the priorities you listed above, think through your actual schedule each day and week. How does your schedule measure up against the priorities you listed above? Where do you see alignment? Where do you see dissonance or conflict between your stated priorities and actual lived-out priorities?

The rest of this week, we will continue to pray, read scripture, and reflect on our life priorities as we seek to rebuild our lives around our relationship with Jesus. End your time by praying and asking the Lord to give you the courage to restructure and reprioritize life wherever necessary.

DAY THREE

Begin with prayer, asking the Lord to give you courage to confront your priorities with his word.

Read Haggai 1:1-11.

What stands out to you in this text? What's impacting you in it?

In Ezra chapter three, we saw the people rebuild the altar of the Lord, but the temple still lay in ruins. Now, 17 years later, the temple was still not rebuilt. God uses the prophet Haggai to rebuke the people for their self-centered priorities as they build their own homes and invest in their own comfort, but neglect the house of the Lord.

Review the priorities you listed yesterday: your big rocks, your smaller rocks, and the sand. Then review the places of dissonance and conflict between your stated priorities and actual lived-out priorities.

What new insights do you have?

Re-read Haggai 1:1-11. What are your paneled houses? What priorities have you established or lived out that conflict with God's priorities for you?

"Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways" (v. 5). Use the rest of your time today to continue considering your ways, reflecting on your stated and lived out priorities, and asking the Lord to give you his priorities for life.

DAY FOUR

As you pray today, ask the Lord to help you seek him first, above all else, and to give you the wisdom and courage to arrange your life around relationship with him.

Read Matthew 6:19-34.

What impacted you or stood out to you from this text?

Re-read the text one more time. What do you think it means to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"?

As you think about restructuring or reorienting your life, priorities, and schedule, what does it look like for you to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"?

Remember the jar and the rocks from day two. If Jesus, Jesus' people, and Jesus' work were the first rocks in the jar, what would that look like for your life and schedule? What would need to change?

How will you make that change?

What help or support do you need? How will you get it?

Pray and ask the Lord for the wisdom, courage, and strength to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Surrender your life, priorities, and schedule to him.

DAY FIVE

Use today to catch up if you missed one of the days this week.

If you are caught up, use your time today to read and meditate on 1 Chronicles 16:8-36. Then spend some time reviewing your week of reflection, and respond to the Lord from what you have been experiencing this week.