

## *Questions for Reflection and Discussion*

### **Ezra 5-6**

#### *Fulfilling Our Calling*

##### ***Getting Started***

What are some things that cause you to become fearful?

##### ***Background***

Due to opposition, the rebuilding of the temple came to a halt in 530 BC. Ten years have passed, and the Jews again start to build. And again they meet with opposition.

##### ***Digging In***

1. **Read Ezra 5:1-5.** How did God mobilize the Jews to renew their efforts to rebuild the temple?
2. What form did opposition take this time?
3. **Read Ezra 5:6-17.** What did the local officials do to resolve the situation?
4. How did the Jews defend their actions?
5. **Read Ezra 6:1-12.** What did King Darius discover as a result of his search of the archives?
6. What instructions did Darius give to Tattenai and the other officials?
7. **Read 6:13-18.** Write a brief summary of these verses.
8. **Read 6:19-22.** How would the original purpose of the **Passover** celebration have special significance for the Jews who had returned from exile? (see Exod 12:1-13 for background)
9. Read back through Ezra 5-6. Write down all the examples you can find of God working on behalf of his people.



##### ***Getting Personal***

- What can we learn from the Israelites' trust and obedience?
- How can confidence in God's power and sovereignty build our faith?
- Consider the things you're currently reading, watching and talking about. Are you feeding fear or faith?
- What practical steps will you take to shore up your confidence in the power, authority and sovereignty of God?