

# Connect Group Study Guide - 1

**Title:** God Keeps His Promises

**Scripture:** Ezra 1:1–7

**Series:** Brick by Brick

**Theme:** Trusting God's timing, sovereignty, and provision in seasons of rebuilding

## Session Goals

- To recognize the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises
- To understand how God stirs hearts—even of unbelievers—for His purposes
- To trust God's provision as we step into our callings and rebuild our lives

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## Read the Passage Together - *Ezra 1:1–7 (NIV)*

(1) *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:*  
(2) *This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. (3) Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. (4) And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.” (5) Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved – prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. (6) All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.*

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## Sermon Summary - Recap

1. **God's Word Never Fails** (Ezra 1:1–2)
  - God stirred Cyrus to fulfill what was spoken through Jeremiah
  - “God's promises are not random. They are precise.”
2. **God Moves the Hearts of Kings** (Ezra 1:2–4)
  - Cyrus, a non-believer, acted as a divine instrument
  - “No one is beyond God's reach.”
3. **God Provides What We Need to Fulfill His Plan** (Ezra 1:5–7)
  - The people received wealth, goods, and sacred temple items
  - “Where God guides, He provides.”

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## Discussion Questions

### Section 1: God's Word Never Fails

1. According to Ezra 1:1, what was the connection between the prophetic word and Cyrus's decree?
2. Share a time when you saw God fulfill a promise in your life or someone else's.
3. How do you respond when it feels like God's promises are delayed?

### Section 2: God Moves the Hearts of Kings

4. Why is it important that Cyrus wasn't a Jew, yet still obeyed God's prompting?
5. What does Proverbs 21:1 teach us about God's influence over leaders?
6. Who in your life are you praying God would "stir" or move for His purposes?

### Section 3: God Provides What We Need

7. What are the different ways God provided for the people returning from exile?
8. What resources, people, or encouragement has God placed in your life to help you "rebuild"?
9. How does Philippians 4:19 encourage you when you feel under-resourced?

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## Until Next Time

- **Personally:** This week, identify one area where you're waiting on God's promise. Write down a verse that affirms His faithfulness and keep it visible.
- **Relationally:** Encourage someone in your life who may be in a waiting season. Share this message and pray with them.
- **Spiritually:** Ask God to stir your heart afresh and show you where He is leading you to rebuild.