

Connect Group Study Guide - 6

Title: *Don't Quit at the Last Brick*

Text: Ezra 6:13–15 (with supporting context from Ezra 6:1–22)

Theme: Faithfully finishing God's assignment is not just about progress, but purpose—and the finish line should always return us to worship.

Series: *Brick by Brick*

Session Objectives

- To recognize the importance of finishing well, not just starting strong
- To distinguish between depletion and divine completion
- To see worship as the true goal of every God-given assignment

Read the Passage Together - Ezra 6:13–22 (NIV)

(13) Then, because of the decree of King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. (14) So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. (15) The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. (16) Then the people of Isarel – the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles – celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. (17) For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. (18) And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses. (19) On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. (20) The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their relatives the priests and for themselves. (21) So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the Lord, the God of Israel. (22) For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the Lord had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.

Context: The temple reconstruction has resumed after years of delay. Against opposition, the people complete the building—but the narrative reveals a deeper lesson: it's not just about building *something* for God, but finishing *well* with God.

Sermon Summary - Recap

1. Don't Confuse Permission with Providence (Ezra 6:1–5)

- God was working behind the scenes the whole time—even before human confirmation.

- Faith means building *before* the scroll is found.

2. Don't Celebrate Progress Without Completing Purpose (Ezra 6:6–15)

- The temple was finished, but smaller than what God had authorized.
- Sometimes we stop because we're tired, not because we're done.
- **Key Question:** *Are you finished, or are you just tired?* Are you truly at the end of your assignment, or are you just emotionally or spiritually depleted?

3. Don't Forget Finishing Leads to Fresh Worship (Ezra 6:16–22)

- The people rededicated the temple and themselves to God.
- Completion led them into consecration—the ultimate mark of finishing well.

Discussion Questions

Section 1 - Faith in the Unfinished

1. What does it look like to trust God's plan even when you don't yet have confirmation?
2. Have you ever felt like God was calling you to keep building without clear signs?
3. **Reflection:** How do you respond when it feels like the scroll hasn't been found yet?

Section 2 - Progress vs. Purpose

4. What's the difference between finishing a project and fulfilling a purpose?
5. What does it mean to confuse momentum with mission?
6. **Challenge:** Ask yourself: *Am I finished, or just tired?* How can you discern the difference between completion and depletion?

Section 3 - From Construction to Consecration

7. Why is worship the appropriate response to a completed assignment?
8. How does Ezra 6:16–22 teach us about rededicating what we build back to God?
9. **Personal:** What's one area of your life where you need to turn progress into purpose through fresh worship?

Until Next Time

1. **Finish What God Started:** Identify one thing—big or small—that God has called you to complete. Write a prayer of recommitment and take one step toward finishing it.
2. **Recharge, Don't Retreat:** Spend 10 minutes daily this week “plugged in” to God—through worship, prayer, or reading Scripture. Let God refill what depletion has drained.
3. **Consecrate the Completion:** When you finish something (a task, prayer, project), pause and say aloud: “*Lord, this is Yours. May it bring You glory.*”