



### **'Worship Rises'**

1. How can we keep a new beginning with God from fizzling out? What sustains it over the long term?
2. Read Ezra 3. Having returned to Jerusalem after being in exile for such a long time, what is the first actions they carry out (verses 1-2)?
3. In verse 3, it says that the people were afraid. What response does this create in the people of Israel?
4. Verses 4-9 reveal the people's involvement in worship and giving. How did they express this?
5. Why was it important for the temple to be rebuilt as part of the restoration of God's people?
6. How and why did the people praise the Lord (verses 10-13)?
7. This shows the importance placed on worship by the people as they returned to Jerusalem. Do you find yourself giving community worship a high priority in your life? Why?
8. Towards the end of the chapter, we find that the older priests, Levites, and heads of clans who had seen the first temple cried and wailed. But the others shouted for joy. Some looked back while others looked forward. Are you a person who tends to look back at the way things used to be or a person who looks more to the future and what is going to be?
9. What dangers are there in having a preoccupation with the 'glories' of the past in church life today (see verses 12-13)? How can this be overcome?
10. How can we determine which aspects of worship are merely cultural and which are basically essential?