

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. The top portion of the image shows a deep blue sea meeting a wide, light-colored sandy beach. Below the beach is a prominent dune area with reddish-brown soil and sparse, low-lying vegetation. The bottom right corner shows a paved road or path. The text is overlaid on the image, with the main title in white and the subtitle in orange.

# Ezra and Nehemiah Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

Restoration  
Movement/change  
People/roles

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Me
  - Change
    - Like it
    - Challenge
    - Interesting
    - Exciting
    - Don't throw the baby out with the bath water
    - Some areas less open to it

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

### • Me

#### – Roles

- Follower of Jesus
- Wife
- Mother
- Daughter
- Sister
- Aunt
- Friend
- Boss
- Colleague

### • Me

#### – Roles

- Treasurer
- Listener
- Consumer
- Agony Aunt
- Youth leader
- House keeper
- Voter
- Preacher

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- You????
  - Change
    - Like
    - Dislike
    - Resist
    - Engage
    - Only when you reach desperation point
    - Better the devil you know

# Ezra and Nehemiah Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- You

- Roles

- ??????????????

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Reminder- what was being restored?

Walls = significance and identity

Temple = God's dwelling place, presence  
and favour

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- What do we ( Living Well Church) want restored?
  - Corporately/Collectively –significance
    - Based on doing God's will
    - Part of the community
    - Effective impact for Jesus on our and others' lives
  - Individually-significance
    - Knowing who we are in God
    - Sense of worth
    - Knowing what our role is

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- What do we (Living Well Church) want restored?

- Corporately/Collectively –identity

- Children of God
- Wholeness in our community
- A common identity and purpose
- Share this with others

- Individually-identity

- Child of God
- Wholeness
- Witness

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- What do we (Living Well Church) want restored?
  - Corporately/Collectively –God's presence and favour
    - In our worship
    - In our witness
  - Individually-God's presence and favour
    - In all areas of our life
    - In our witness

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- So what can we learn from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah about change?
  - Always involves movement
  - All change is a process
  - Many elements to the process

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Elements of the process
  - Prayer (focused, detailed)
  - Preparation/ Planning
  - Prayer (small, quick, urgent)
  - People
  - Purpose
  - Perseverance
  - Prayer
  - Protection
  - Praise

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- So what can we learn from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah about people and roles?
  - All involved
  - Existing skills used
  - New skills learnt
  - Leadership matters
  - Diligence
  - Family ties matter

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Restoration involves change, all of us and loads of hard work!
- One of the most striking facts about Nehemiah is that there are no miracles in the book; it is a book about effective planning, hard work, dedication, and Nehemiah's individual trust in the Lord. This book shows how, for Christians, God is present in our ordinary activities, like work, just as much as during times of miraculous healing and divine intervention.

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Are we looking for restoration?
- Have we a vision?
- Are we ready for commitment and hard work?
- Are we protected, have we placed guards?
- Are we hearing God's word both preached and prophetic?
- Are we praying and praising?

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Are you looking for restoration?
- Are you ready for change?
- Are you desperate to find your identity and significance?
- Are you desperate for God's presence and favour?
- Do you want this for others?

# Ezra and Nehemiah

## Ruins-Restoration-Relationships

- Lets take up the challenge
  - Listen to our Leader's vision
  - Find our role
  - Be prepared for hard work using old and new skills
  - Remember to pray, praise and protect