

Discussion Guide For the Week of Nov. 18, 2018

Read Ezra 4:1-6; 5:1-5

Psalm 55:1-3, 11-22; Philippians 4:6-7

- Ezra 4:1-5 and Psalm 55:1-3, 11-21 both tell the story of betrayal. In Ezra it is by those who pretended to be friends, in Psalms it is by one who was by a companion and close friend. Discuss how it feels to be betrayed – especially to be betrayed by a “friend.” How did you deal with the betrayal?
- You have to read between the lines a little in Ezra 5:1-3, but how did the Jews deal with the betrayal in Ezra? How did David deal with the betrayal in Psalms 55 (see especially Ps. 55:1-2, 16-22)?
- The Bible gives quite the promise in Psalms 55:22. What is that promise? Should we take this promise literally?
- Do you see a difference between giving your *burdens* to God (Psalm 55:22) and giving your *worries* to God (Phil. 4:6)? Why would Phil. 4:6 include a “command” to thank God for all He has done? Why is that important?
- What is the promised blessing from God in Psalm 55:22? What is the promised blessing from God in Phil. 4:6-7? How are these promises similar to what the Jews experienced in Ezra 5:2, 5?
- The same basic principles the Bible teaches in Ezra chapters 4-6 and Psalms 55 and Philippians 4:6-7 apply to all of the worries and burdens and any other problem which threaten to “destroy us.” In light of what the Bible promises, how should you respond to all of these problems?