

# Ezra — Worksheet 1: Answer Key

Return from Exile & Rebuilding the Temple — marking guide

Use this to mark your own worksheet. For reflection questions, there is no single right answer — check that your response genuinely engages with the passage.

## 1. What did God stir up King Cyrus of Persia to do, according to Ezra 1:1-2?

To make a proclamation allowing the Jewish exiles to return and rebuild the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem.

## 2. What were the returning exiles permitted to take with them, according to Ezra 1:4?

Silver, gold, goods, animals, and freewill offerings for God's house.

## 3. What happened when the Temple's foundation was laid, according to Ezra 3:10-11?

The priests and Levites praised the LORD with singing, and all the people shouted with a great shout, giving thanks.

## 4. Why do you think both joy and weeping were present at this moment (see Ezra 3:12-13, summarise)?

Older people who remembered the first Temple wept at how much smaller this one was, while younger people rejoiced simply that it was being rebuilt at all.

## 5. Reflection: How do you relate to the mix of joy and grief described at this rebuilding — is there a 'new start' in your life that carries both feelings?

Open, personal reflection.