



Long Story Short Series
Knox Presbyterian Church
Week 10: Comeback

This week, groups should discuss week 10, 'Comeback,' and prepare for week 11 by reading Scripture on 'Incarnation.'

1. As usual, check in with your small group. What's happened since the last time you met? Share joys, concerns, and updates.
2. This week is our last week in the Old Testament! Starting next week, our 'Long Story Short' series will move onto the New Testament, which tells the story of Jesus and the church. Take a moment and review all the ground we've covered in the Old Testament. What happens between Abraham and the exile? Are there parts of the story you still don't understand? Pool your knowledge to try to make sure everyone has a basic understanding of the Old Testament story. (If you have questions, ask your leader or one of the pastors!).
3. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were originally part of one longer story about life in Israel after the exiles returned. One easy way of breaking them down is to think of them as telling the story of three leaders: Zerubbabel (Ezra 3-6); Ezra (Ezra 7-10); Nehemiah (esp. Neh. 8-13). What, if anything, do you know about them? If your knowledge is pretty minimal and you need a basic orientation, you might watch the 'Bible Project' video on YouTube about Ezra and Nehemiah.)
4. One recurring theme in Ezra and Nehemiah is 'anticlimax.' What does it mean for something to be 'anticlimactic'? Can you think of some examples from your own life? How was Israel's story in these two books an anticlimactic story?
5. Christians believe the climax of God's story with the Jews came, not when they returned from exile, but in the life of Jesus Christ. How did the anticlimax depicted in Ezra and Nehemiah pave the way for the true climax found in Jesus? How does Jesus represent God's true response or answer to Israel's difficulties in the Old Testament?
6. Experiencing something anticlimactic is common in life and in the Christian faith. God answers a prayer, but we discover it isn't what we hoped. We take a risk for the kingdom, and then it works out quite differently than we planned. Have you experienced this? If so, how? Has God ever used an anticlimactic experience to prepare you for something even better later on? Share in your group and discuss.