

# Disqualified

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## Prevented or Prepared?

In Christ, your past might not be the thing that prevent you from being a part of God's great work... It might be the thing that has prepared you.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Do you see yourself as being a competitive person? Why or why not?
  2. Have you been in a season of life like Ezra or Nehemiah when you've believed that God couldn't use you? In the sense of, "I've failed at (this relationship, this friendship, this career move, this sin), and now God couldn't possibly use me"? Please share the experience.
  3. Taking that one step further, have you ever been convinced that God is disappointed or disgusted with your weakness or your past? What is one thing that you remember in order to break that cycle of "stinking thinking"?
  4. The Israelites could live as a people of God because God had prepared Ezra and Nehemiah in two different ways for a single great work. Do you believe that God can take what's happened in your past and transform it into something powerful enough to change the Kingdom? Is that difficult to believe? Please discuss.
  5. Sometimes it can be easy to fall into that trap of the spirit of comparison, comparing ourselves to others' spiritual lives and disqualifying ourselves because of it. Why do we disqualify ourselves based off of our differences?
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## God in Real Life

This week, identify one circumstance in your life (whether in your past or in your present) that might be preparing you for the future. Also, identify one way your specific and unique personality/situation/insight/difference could add to the body of Christ.

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## To the Heart

"Ezra read clearly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, the governor, and Ezra the priest-scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: 'Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not lament, do not weep!'" Nehemiah 8:8-9