

God's hand for our good (Ezra 8)

A failure of courage

So how do we gain courage?

Faith feeds on seeing God at work

What Ezra 8 is all about (cf. 7:28)

1. God's hand ensures faith will be passed on (v.1-14)

Parallel structure

Ezra 1	Ezra 7
Ezra 2	Ezra 8
Ezra 4-6	Ezra 9-10

List of names (v.1-14)

God wants every generation to know him

Connection of these names with first wave in chp 2

God often works in families! (but see also Joab and Ezra)

2. God's hand raises people to serve and lead (v.15-20)

The problem

Why?

God's hand at work (v.18-20)

But that doesn't mean we do nothing!

The challenge today

3. God's hand brings safety for the journey (v.21-36)

The journey

What Ezra does

What he didn't do (cf. Nehemiah 2)

God's answer (v.31, 34)

What that means for us