

## Regional Gatherings Pre-work

We asked our Regional Gathering speaker Grace Pomroy to help prime the pump before we all descend on Spokane Valley, Twin Falls, and Ellensburg. Below are materials you could use in a classroom, online, in worship, or on the drive to the event. You could involve people who will be attending and/or other members of your congregation.

### **Ezra 3:10-13:**

*“When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,*

*‘For he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.’*

*And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.”*

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What word or phrase jumped out at you as you read the passage?
2. What might God be saying to you or your congregation through this passage?
3. What’s something that used to happen (or used to be true) in the congregation that you wish would return?
4. What’s one thing you fear might be lost as your congregation moves into the future?
5. What’s one good thing from the past that you may need to release to move into a new future?
6. What’s one hope you have as your congregation moves into this next season of ministry?

### **Prayer:**

*Author of love, we give thanks that your love does indeed endure forever. We give thanks for all of the resources you have entrusted to our care to aid in funding your mission in the world. Grant us wisdom as we examine the ways we have funded your church in the past and how you might be calling us to fund it moving forward. Accompany us as we hold together grief and joy as we walk into the future you have prepared for us. Amen.*