

PREK Flight Plan October 25th

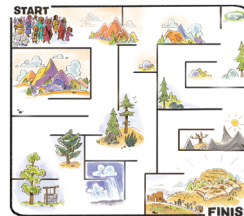


Lesson	The Captives Come Home
Bible Passage	Ezra 1-6
Story Point	God kept His promise to bring His people home.
Key Passage	The Lord ... is patient with you, ... wanting ... all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9
Big Picture Q & A	How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.



Get the Captives Home

www.graceairways.com



MISSION: ACTIVITY 1
Ezra 1:1 - 6:22
The Captives Come Home

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The Captives Come Home

15

leader bible study

God's people had been living in Babylon for 70 years. Some of God's people had died in Babylon. Some of their children and grandchildren were born in Babylon and grew up there. But Babylon was not their home.

Before the people of Judah were exiled, God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah. These are the words of the Lord: "These nations will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years" (Jer. 25:11). Then the Lord said, "When seventy years for Babylon are complete, I will attend to you and will confirm my promise concerning you to restore you to this place" (Jer. 29:10). The time had come for God's people to go back home.

Cyrus, the king of the Persian empire, had overthrown Babylon. Cyrus took over the kingdom, including the lands of Israel and Judah. In the following year, the Lord did something miraculous in Cyrus's heart. He prompted Cyrus to issue a decree: All the Jewish exiles are free to return to their ancestral homes. He even provided supplies for them to return!

The exile was over! God's people were free to return to their own land. They were free to live as God's special people. The first group of Judean exiles returned home under the leadership of Zerubbabel (zuh RUHB uh buhl). Zerubbabel was the grandson of King Jehoiachin, who had been taken to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. (See 2 Kings 24:8-13.)

Ezra 2:64-65 says nearly 50,000 people traveled back to Judah. When they got to Jerusalem, they began working to rebuild the temple that the Chaldeans had destroyed. (See 2 Chron. 36:19.)

Explain to preschoolers that the temple was the place where God met with His people. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people from sin. When Jesus returns, He will restore the earth and will dwell with His people forever.



Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

October Focus: A Nation Divided



October 4th: Solomon Built the Temple

1 Kings 6-8

Story point: God's people built Him a temple.



October 11th: The Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 11-12

Story Point: God divided Israel into two kingdoms



October 18th: Israel/Judah Taken Captive

2 Kings 17 & 2 Chronicles 36

Story Point: Israel and Judah did not listen to God's warning



October 25th: The Captives Come Home *Ezra 1-6*

Story Point: God kept His promise to bring His people home



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Morning Routine



Stay with this order.

Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.

Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.



Take Off

VBS song
Verse/BPO

5 Min

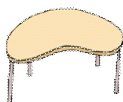


Journey

Prayer
Bible Story
God Attributes



10 Min



Flight Lab

Bible Story Activity

15 Min

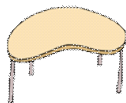


Free Play

Inside or on
playground

10 Min

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside



Pilot's Log

Prayer
Take Home Page
Settle and Review



5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



5 min Take Off

Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning

Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing.

Have your co-pilot check attendance.

Song

Do a song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson,

Key passage

Transition from singing into the Verse Song. Lead the kids with the hand motions in the video!

The Lord ... is patient with you, ... wanting ... all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Big picture question

How did God plan to fix what sin broke?

God planned to send Jesus.

Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc...

Set expectations for the children: "my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap"

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

Bible Connection Ideas

Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

Open Shut them:

Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet , I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*) , I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

- Our Bible story comes from the Book of Ezra. Like all the stories in the Bible, this story is true. After being gone for many, many years, God brought His people home just like He promised to do. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is NOT in It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

- **God kept His promise to bring His people home.** God brought His people back from Babylon to Jerusalem after 70 years of being away. Zerubbabel led God's people to begin fixing the temple when they got back to their land in Jerusalem. One day Jesus will come back to earth. He will fix up an even greater home for all of God's people, and we will live with Him forever.

Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask:

1. **How long did God's people live in Babylon?** (70 years)
2. **Who led the people back to their home in Jerusalem?** (Zerubbabel)
3. **What did the people start building when they got back to Judah?** (the temple)
4. **What did the people do when the temple was finished?** (Worshipped and praised God, celebrated Passover)
5. **How did God plan to fix what sin broke?** God planned to send Jesus.

What movement-based activity can I use?



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Holy

-Provider

Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'

Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

The Captives Came Home— *Ezra 1-3*

God's people were in Babylon, far away from their homes and land. But God had made a promise. God had said that the people would have to stay in Babylon for 70 years, but then He would bring His people back home. God always keeps His promises.

After 70 years, God gave King Cyrus an idea. Cyrus said, "Let God's people go back to their land. Let them rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem."

This was good news! Before, God's people had to stay in Babylon like prisoners. Now they were free! They could finally go home. So the people got ready to go. King Cyrus and the other people living in Babylon gave them gifts like gold, silver, and animals.

A man named Zerubbabel (zuh RUHB uh buhl) led God's people back home. Some of the people had never seen Jerusalem because they had been born in Babylon. When they got to Judah, each family set up its house. Then the people met together in Jerusalem to start rebuilding God's temple.

God had special laws for how to build the temple, and God's people were careful to obey them. The priests made the altar in the same place the old altar had been. Then they made offerings and sacrifices to God.

The people started building. First, they needed money to buy supplies. God's people gave money to the men in charge of building the temple. They paid people to bring big logs to Jerusalem. The workers made the foundation, or the bottom, of the temple. The foundation was very important. A strong foundation makes a building strong.

The people were so happy that the foundation was done! The priests put on special clothes. The people shouted and sang songs to God. "God is good! He is loving and always will be!" they said. What a happy day for God's people.

Not everyone was happy though. Some of the older people remembered what the first temple had looked like long ago, before it had been knocked down. The people were sad, and they cried loudly. The sounds of people shouting and crying was so loud that it could be heard far away.

Christ Connection: *Zerubbabel led God's people home to fix the temple. Jesus came to earth to save God's people. One day Jesus will come back. He will fix up a greater home for all of God's people, and we will live with Him forever.*

Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

The Captives Came Home— *Ezra 1-3*

Card 1: God's people had lived in Babylon for a long long time – 70 years! God had told His people that He would bring them back to their land. God gave the King Cyrus of Persia an idea. The king said, "Let God's people go back to their land. Let them rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem." King Cyrus even gave God's people money and animals for the trip.

Card 2: Zerubbabel was the leader of God's people. When the people built the foundation of the temple, they celebrated. Some of the older people remembered what the first temple had looked like long ago, before it had been knocked down. The people were sad, and they cried loudly. The sound of people celebrating and crying could be heard from far away.

Card 3: God had special laws for how to build the temple, and God's people were careful to obey them. God's people were building the temple. But the people who lived around them did not want them to rebuild. The prophet Haggai told the people to keep building because God was with them.

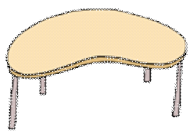
Card 4: Soon the Temple was finished. The people celebrated and praised God! The People worshiped God and they celebrated the Passover. God's people were so happy that God kept His promise

Christ Connection: *Zerubbabel led God's people home to fix the temple. Jesus came to earth to save God's people. One day Jesus will come back. He will fix up a greater home for all of God's people, and we will live with Him forever.*

Bible Storytelling Tips:

Use the "Family Line of Jesus" poster: Display the "Family Line of Jesus" poster. Point to Zerubbabel when he is mentioned in the Bible story.

Walk and talk: Go on a walk in your room or outside and tell the Bible story. Walk a little way, then stop. Read a paragraph of the story. Walk a little way more, stop. Read the next paragraph. Continue until the story is complete—ending back in your room to help children picture the People



15 min Flight lab

Learning the story in an interactive way

Choose from below or use your own idea-however the Lord leads. Then go into free-play.

Follow the road home

Use tape to mark a path around the room on the floor, making sure that the path ends where it begins. Encourage children to walk the path without falling off. Suggest they walk forward, heel to toe, backward, hoping on one foot, in pairs, or holding a toy. Repeat the activity as time allows.

- Walking around the room did not take us very long, but some of it, like walking backward, was hard to do. In today's Bible story, God brought His people home to Judah from Babylon. They had to walk for a long time, and they had to carry all that they owned. It was not an easy trip, but they were happy to be home. What did they do when they got home?

Count items into groups of 10

Lay plastic counters, large buttons, crayons, stones, or other manipulatives in a bin on the table. Invite children to count out 10 items and place the 10 items in a small bowl. Encourage children to continue until they have 7 bowls with each containing 10 items. Help as needed.

- Seven groups of 10 equals 70. Seventy items looks like a lot, but can you imagine 70 years! God's people were in Babylon for 70 years. That's a long time! Finally the time had come for God's people to go home.

Pack a moving box

Encourage children to gather up small toys, toy dishes, and books from around the classroom. Show them how to carefully pack these things into a suitcase. Take turns carrying the suitcase on a 'journey'.

- God's people had been living in Babylon for 70 years. King Cyrus allowed them to go back to their home in Judah. They walked for a long time and had to carry all of their belongings with them. God kept His promise to bring His people home.

Make a suitcase

Print a copy of the “Suitcase” printable on heavyweight paper for each child. Invite children to cut out the pattern. Cut the patterns ahead of time for younger children. Show children how to fold the pattern in half to create a suitcase that opens. Guide children to open their suitcase and draw items with crayons or markers that they would pack if they were moving. Encourage them to decorate the outside of their suitcases with stickers, crayons, or markers.

- If you had to move what would you pack in your suitcase to take with you? God’s people had to move everything they had in Babylon back to Judah. King Cyrus also gave them gifts of gold, silver, and animals to take with them. On the front of your suitcase it says, God kept His promise to bring His people home. Someday Jesus will come back. He will fix up a greater home for all of God’s people, and we will live with Him forever.

Build with blocks

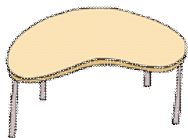
Provide blocks for children to practice stacking. You may help place a few blocks side by side to make a foundation. Talk about the story.

- Zerubbabel led the people to build the temple. The temple was where people met with God. Jesus brings us to God.

Experiment with foundations

Provide a pillow, a book, and a binder for children. Give them a stack of blocks to build on top of each foundation to test which is the sturdiest. You may help place a few blocks first if they need help. Talk about the story.

- Zerubbabel led the people to build the temple. The temple was where people met with God. Jesus brings us to God.



5 Min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to go home

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today's lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (playdough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.

PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connectstrips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

Pointing to a Globe — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus, light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window — Grab a dry-erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out o the window to pray over. Using the dry-erase marker, write or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

**You're
ready for
Sunday!**

