

Ezra Read the Law 1 year olds - 4 year olds

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Ezra 7-10, Nehemiah 8

Christ Connection: The Bible teaches us about God and Jesus. It helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things, but God can help us want to obey Him. Jesus died to rescue us from sin.

Bottom Line: I can learn how to obey God from the Bible.

Leader Context: <https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2023/05/29/ask-leaders-june-4>

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Discussion Questions

- **When Ezra returned to Jerusalem, he learned that the people had disobeyed God and sinned. How did Ezra feel when he learned of the people's sin?** Ezra cried, the people cried and called out to God for forgiveness.
- **What happened when Ezra read the Word of the Lord to the people?** They listened, loved God more and changed their ways.
- **Why is it important for us to read and know the Word of God? The Bible tells us bad news about sin and our need for help.** It also gives us good news, we can be saved from sin through Jesus. God's Word gives ways to live our lives to follow God and know who He is.
- **What changes does God want us to make when we hear His Word?** Give God full attention and ask Him to show us how to live for Him. If God's Word says to do something, then do it. If it says not to do something, then stop what you are doing.

Fishing Game or I Spy

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets

What You Do:

- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Small Group Prayer: "Dear God, we praise You for Your Salvation. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. Help us trust in Him and allow Him to change our hearts. Amen."



Bible Story Video



Story Basket

“The walls around Jerusalem were finally finished. The people had worked very hard, and God had helped them. Let’s learn what happened next with our story basket. (*Shake the pom pom*) One morning, the people came to hear Ezra (EZ ruh) the priest read God’s Word. The sun was just coming up when Ezra carried out God’s Word so he could read it. God’s words were written on a scroll. Ezra stood on a tall stage and opened the scroll. Everyone could see it. (*Show a Bible.*) Ezra read God’s Word aloud. The people in the crowd listened carefully. Everyone stood up. Ezra praised God, and the people lifted up their hands. (*Shake the pom pom*) “Amen! Amen!” the people said. Then they bowed down their faces close to the ground. All the people worshiped God together. *Let’s try that. Everyone kneel on the floor. Then bend down to put your face on the ground. Stay there till I say, get up.*

Some of the leaders there helped the people understand what Ezra read. When the people understood God’s Word, they were sad. The words from God were about how to live, and the people had not made right choices. They were sorry for disobeying God.

Ezra, said, “This day is special. Do not be sad.” Now, it’s time to get up. *Stand up.*

He told them, “Go home and get ready to have a feast! Eat good food and drink good drinks. Share what you make with people who do not have any. Today is a special day. Be happy! God makes us strong.”

So the people did what Ezra told them to do. (*Shake the pom poms*) This story helps us remember, The Bible teaches us about God and Jesus. It helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things, but God can help us want to obey Him. (*Show Jesus poster.*) Jesus died to rescue us from sin.”

Application Activity

Decorate Food Bags

What You Need: Encouragement Cards, stickers, stamps, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid 2 cards.
- Ask them to decorate their cards using markers, stamps and stickers.
- Explain that High School kids will receive these cards at camp with some snacks. Just like Ezra asked the people to share their food, we will be sharing some food with high school kids.
- Collect all the cards at the end of the day. These will be glued to bags of snacks for Student Life Camp June 26- 30.

Say: “This food will be shared with students at camp. After Ezra read God’s Word to the people, he told them to go home and get ready to have a feast. He said to share their food with people who did not have any. We can share our food, too.”



Transition

Act Out the Story

Transition Activities are provided so that you can separate the group and have small groups doing each activity at the same time. Allow your helper to lead one activity while you do the other activity.

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Teach children motions to the part of the story where the people responded to Ezra reading the Bible.
 - "Ezra read God's Word aloud. Everyone stood up. (*Kids stand up.*) Ezra praised God. The people lifted their hands. (*Kids lift their hands.*) Amen! Amen! the people said. (*Kids shout Amen!*) They bowed down and worshiped God together. (*Kids bow down.*)"
- Repeat this sequence several times of children reenacting the story.
- Once kids have learned the motions, you may choose to vary the speed, completing the motions quickly or very slowly.

Say: "You acted out part of our Bible story from today. Ezra read God's Word to the people, and they responded by worshiping God. The Bible teaches us about God and Jesus. It helps us to know the right things to do. We do wrong things, but God can help us want to obey Him. Jesus died to rescue us from sin."

Going Home

Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to take home.
- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.