

### Ezra Read the Law Kindergarten - 5th grade

#### 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.



#### Social

#### Pick a Stick and Would You Rather

**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."

### Reading God's Word

**What You Need:** Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Provide Bibles for each kid.
- Review the skills needed to locate a Bible reference such as, using the Table of Contents, knowing the book titles, finding the chapter number, locating the verse number, etc.
- Encourage kids to practice locating the following references and help those who need extra help.
  - Genesis 1:1
  - John 3:16
  - Romans 3:23
  - Romans 6:23
  - Romans 10:9-10
  - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- Invite someone to read those aloud or ask younger kids to follow the words with their fingers as you read it to them.
- Take time after you read every verse to talk about what it says.

**Say:** "Each one of those Bible verses teaches us the truth of the gospel: God is King, we sinned, God provided, Jesus gives, we respond. Reading God's Word helps us love God more and changes our hearts to be more like Jesus."

- *Did you learn something new about the Bible today? Tell us about it.*
- *How are you going to use this skill the next time you look at your Bible?*

## Application Activity





## Transition

### Help Me Understand

*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:** Help Me Understand Printables (1 set per group)

**What You Do:**

- Place the cards on the table in this order (eye, can, fish, letter N, letter A, river).
- Lead kids to work together to figure out the sentence the symbols represent.
- Offer help as needed by giving hints.
- Congratulate kids if they correctly guess "I can fish in a river."

**Say:** "When we first saw the symbols, we didn't really understand what they meant. We had to work together to understand their meaning. In today's Bible story, God's people needed help understanding the law. Ezra helped them understand it better."

- *Can you think of a time you felt sorry for your sin? What did you do?*
- *What changes can you make this week based on things you learned from God's Word?*

## Going Home

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

- 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.