

May 14
9:00am & 11:00am
EZRA READ THE LAW
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 a lot, but God can change our hearts and help us say no to sin. Jesus died to rescue us from sin

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

LEARN

1. GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON

Introduce the Bible Story

Roll a piece of construction paper to resemble a scroll. Hide the scroll in the classroom. Encourage preschoolers to find the scroll and bring it to group time. Be prepared to give clues to assist boys and girls as they look for the scroll.

SAY *You found our pretend scroll. In our story today, Ezra read God's Word. God's words were written on a scroll. Today, we have God's words written in our Bible.*

Open your Bible to Ezra 7–10. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided script.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Pass the scroll used in "Introduce the Bible Story" around to each preschooler as you encourage her to answer a question about the story.

1. Who went to Jerusalem to study and teach about God's laws? (Ezra, a priest and scribe, traveled to Jerusalem. He wanted to study God's law, obey it, and teach it to God's people.)
2. Were God's people obeying or disobeying God? (*They were disobeying God. They had been doing things God said not to do.*)
3. What did the people come hear Ezra the priest do? (*Ezra read God's Word aloud.*)
4. How did the people feel when they understood God's Word? (*When the people understood God's Word, they were sad. They were sorry for disobeying God.*)
5. What did Ezra tell the people to do once they understood what God wanted them to do? (*Ezra said, "Do not be sad. 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."*)

SAY *Ezra went to Jerusalem. He wanted to study God's law, obey it, and teach it to God's people. Ezra met with some of God's people. They had been doing things God said not to do. Ezra was very upset. He prayed and told God about their sin. The people cried. They were sorry and promised to love God as they should. Later, the people came to hear Ezra read from God's Word. Together, they worshiped God. When*

the people understood God's Word, they were sad. The words from God were about how to live, and the people had not been living the way God wanted them to live. They were sorry for disobeying God. Ezra told the people not to be sad. He said to celebrate, have a feast, and share what they make with people who do not have any. The people did what Ezra told them to do. God's Word, the Bible, teaches us about God and Jesus. It helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things a lot, but God can change our hearts and help us say no to sin. Jesus died to rescue us from sin.

4. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

SAY *How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him. God's people disobeyed God. They did things God said not to do. The people were sorry and promised to love God as they should.*

5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Three Year Olds:

Place the key passage phrase marker in your Bible at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to pretend like they are opening, or unrolling, a scroll to read the key passage phrase with you. Repeat the phrase several times.

SAY *Ezra read God's Word to His people. They felt sorry when they realized they had disobeyed God. They wanted to obey God. We do wrong things too. We should feel sorry when we disobey God. God can help us want to obey Him.*

Four Year Olds:

Place the key passage marker at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Practice saying two words: "grief" and "repentance." Say the words together a few times. Explain that "grief" means feeling sad. "Repentance" is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus. Prompt preschoolers to listen for these two words and raise their hand when hearing each word. Read aloud the verse a couple of times. Place the key passage marker at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read aloud the verse. Define the word "grief" as sadness. Read the verse again and tell preschoolers to pretend to cry when hearing the word. Define the word "salvation" as "believing that Jesus is God's Son and trusting in Him to forgive our sins." Read the verse again and tell children to cheer and clap when hearing the word "salvation."

SAY *When we sin, we disobey God. We disobey God when we do things like take something that is not ours, tell a lie, or say something mean. We should feel sorry for sinning and choose to obey Him. God wants us to believe Jesus is God's Son and trust in Him to forgive our sins.*

5. PRAY

SAY God, thank You that we can learn more about You and Jesus in the Bible. We are sorry when we sin or disobey You. Help us to make the right choices and do what You want us to do. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

DECORATE A BOOKMARK

Cut wide strips of construction paper, one for each preschooler. Place the paper strips, Bibles, and markers on a table. Guide each preschooler to select a construction paper strip to decorate with markers to create a Bible bookmark. Consider punching holes in one end of the bookmarks and assist children in tying 4-inch pieces of ribbon in the holes. When preschoolers complete their bookmarks, help them locate Ezra 7–10 and 2 Corinthians 7:10 in the Bibles. Invite preschoolers to show their bookmarks to others.

SAY *We created bookmarks for our Bibles. You can take your bookmark home and put it in your Bible. It can remind you that the Bible teaches us about God and Jesus. The Bible helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things a lot, but God can change our hearts and help us say no to sin. Jesus died to rescue us from sin.*

ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *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.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1-7. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

EZRA READ THE LAW

STORYTELLING TIPS

Pretend to cry: Keep an open Bible on your lap while telling today's Bible story. Prompt preschoolers to make a crying face and sound. While telling the story, pause when saying the word "cry" so the boys and girls can pretend to cry. Review the key points of the story after telling it to make sure preschoolers understand why the people were crying.

Read from a Bible scroll: Make a Bible scroll from a long strip of paper. Open the scroll and tell the story as if you are reading it from the scroll.

The walls around Jerusalem were finally finished. The people had worked very hard, and God had helped them. Ezra (EZ ruh), a priest and scribe, traveled to Jerusalem. God was with Ezra. Ezra wanted to study God's law, obey it, and teach it to God's people.

Ezra met with some of God's people. He heard that some of them had been disobeying God. They had been doing things God said not to do. Ezra was very upset. He sat down and tore his clothes. Then Ezra got on his knees and prayed. He told God about their sin. God's people cried too. They were sorry and promised to love God as they should.

Later, the people got together again. Men, women, and children came to hear Ezra 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.

Ezra began to 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.

"Amen! Amen!" the people said. Then they bowed down with their faces close to the ground. All the people worshiped God together.

Some of the leaders there explained God's words to the people. They 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 been living the way God wanted them to live. They were sorry for disobeying God.

Ezra, his helpers, and Nehemiah (nee huh MIGH uh) the governor said, "This day is special. Do not be sad. Do not cry." This was a happy day.

Ezra said, "Go home and get ready to have a feast! Eat good food and drink good drinks. Share what you make with people who don't have any food or drinks."

Then Ezra said again, "Today is a special day. Be happy! God makes us strong."

So the people did what Ezra told them to do.

Christ Connection: The Bible teaches us about God and Jesus. It helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things a lot, but God can change our hearts and help us say no to sin. Jesus died to rescue us from sin.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

May 14
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds
EZRA READ THE LAW
Ezra 7-10, Nehemiah 8

CHRIST CONNECTION: The Bible 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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *We should feel sorry when we disobey God. 2 Corinthians 7:10*

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Lay a large tablecloth or picnic blanket on the floor in the group time area. Invite preschoolers to join you for group time on the blanket. Remind preschoolers that Ezra encouraged the people to have a feast after the reading of God's Word.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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ACTIVITIES

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage phrase marker in a Bible at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open the Bible to the key passage. Invite children to repeat the key passage phrase with you several times. Say the key passage phrase standing up. Say it again sitting down. Say the key passage phrase a third time standing for the first phrase, then sitting down for the second phrase.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *Nehemiah helped God's people fix the walls around their city. The walls protected the people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from our enemies.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

When Jerusalem's walls were finished, the people gathered together. A teacher named Ezra read God's words aloud. As the people listened, they bowed down with their faces close to the ground. All the people worshiped God together. While Ezra read God's words, other leaders helped people understand them. When the people understood God's words, they were sad. They knew they had not obeyed God; they were sorry for disobeying. Ezra said, "Go and get ready for a feast! Eat good food and drink good drinks. Share what you make with people who don't have any. Today is a special day. Be happy! God makes us strong."

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.