



MARCH 1, 2026

## EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW

EZRA 7-10; NEHEMIAH 8

### CHRIST CONNECTION

Ezra taught God's law, and the people recognized their sin. Jesus came to fulfill the law and gives us power to turn away from sin through His death and resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, our hearts are changed so we can love and obey God.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is the Bible about? The Bible is the story of God's plan to save people through Jesus.

### MEMORY VERSE

John 20:31

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

In His providence, God raised up Ezra to be a leader who realized the people of God needed to do more than just rebuild the buildings and walls in Jerusalem. If all the buildings and infrastructure of Jerusalem were completely rebuilt, but the people did not know God and His good commands, then all their rebuilding would be in vain.

Ezra was a faithful scribe and priest who returned to Jerusalem with a clear mission: to teach the law of God to the people. Ezra 7:10 tells us that Ezra had determined to know the law, obey the law, and teach the law to the people of God in Jerusalem. Ezra's commitment and desire to teach the law was not merely to speak its truth; he intended to live the truth of it as well.

From dawn until noon, Ezra read from the law of Moses, instructing God's people in His commands and reminding them of God's faithfulness. The response of the people to the reading of the law was overwhelming. They wept when they heard God's Word because they were confronted with the reality of their sin. Ultimately, the people repented of their sins and made a commitment to follow God's law.

Ezra's commitment to living and teaching the law reminds us of the importance of devoting ourselves to knowing, understanding, and living out God's Word. This opens our lives to God's transformative work through His truth and the power of the Holy Spirit who conforms us into the image of Jesus. Through our study of God's Word, we also realize our absolute need for Him. God's Word reveals our sin and reminds us that we are incapable of saving ourselves. Because of God's faithful love, He sent His Son to take our sin upon Himself so that we can be forgiven and receive eternal salvation.

Ezra's ministry reminds us of the power of Scripture to transform lives. God's Word reveals our sin, leads us to repentance, and shows us the way to restoration. Point kids to see how followers of Jesus are called to know, understand, obey, and share God's words as they point others to the gospel.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSE

...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**John 20:31, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on March 22!*





## EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW

Ezra was a scribe and a priest, and he knew the law of Moses. He had committed to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach it to all God's people.

King Artaxerxes wrote a letter that said, "Any of God's people who want to go back to Jerusalem with Ezra may go. Make sure to bring all the silver and the gold that I and others have given to the God of Israel. And if you need anything else for the house of God, you may use the royal treasury to pay for it." Ezra praised God, thanking Him for the kindness and generosity of the king. God was with Ezra and strengthened him for the journey to Jerusalem.

After Ezra returned to Jerusalem, he met with some leaders of the people. Ezra learned that some of the people and their leaders had disobeyed God because they did not separate themselves from the surrounding nations and their wicked practices. Ezra tore his clothes and was very upset. Ezra got on his knees and prayed to God, confessing the people's sin. As he did this, God's people began to gather around Ezra. They cried and confessed their sin too, promising to be faithful to God.

Then Ezra brought the book of the law of Moses and read it before all who could listen with understanding. He read the law from dawn until noon. All the people listened very carefully and lifted their hands and said, "Amen, Amen!" Then they knelt and worshiped God with their faces to the ground.

Then, Levites came to the people and began to explain the law so the people could better understand what was read. The people began to cry as they heard the words of the law, because they realized they had not been obeying God.

Nehemiah and Ezra said, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad! Go and eat good food and drink what is sweet, because today is holy. The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Then all the people had a great celebration with food and drinks because they understood the words of the law that Ezra taught them.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Ezra taught God's law, and the people recognized their sin. Jesus came to fulfill the law and gives us power to turn away from sin through His death and resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, our hearts are changed so we can love and obey God.

# ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

*For this activity you can play either as one big group or divide kids into teams to compete against each other!*

On the TV in your room, pull up the folder labeled “What Does This Mean?”. Go through each of the provided rebus puzzles and have kids work to figure out what the image means/what word or phrase is being visualized.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Ezra and the Levites taught the people about God's law. They helped the people to better understand what God's law actually said. Because of this, the people understood and realized they were sinning against God. This made them want to change and obey God's law.

## BIBLE SKILLS

The Bible has many genres, including law. The first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy) are law books, meaning they tell us what God's law is.

Spend some time reviewing the law genre and then, depending on your group's size and ability, choose one of the provided activities to practice their Bible skills. (e.g., Books of the Bible Puzzle, Bible Book Scramble, True or False, etc.)

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. Why do we read and study the Bible?
2. Why was it important for the Levites to help the people understand God's law?
3. Who helps you understand God's Word?
4. Why did God want His people to celebrate?
5. When God shows us sin in our lives through His Word, what should be our response?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**