

Fellowship Kids

4s/5s Lesson Plan - Sunday School

Sunday, September 20

UNIT 18 | SESSION 2

EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW

EZRA 7-10; NEHEMIAH 8

MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION: Ezra taught the people about God's rules. Jesus also taught about God's rules, but Jesus did even more—He followed all of God's laws perfectly, died for our sins, and came back to life!

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: JOHN 20:31 - "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

LESSON CONTEXT: This Unit - Nehemiah led God's people to return home from exile and rebuild Jerusalem's walls. Ezra began teaching God's Word, and the people vowed to faithfully obey God. Malachi—the last Old Testament prophet—reminded the people of God's love for them. Malachi also warned God's people to repent of their disobedience and pointed them to the coming Messiah.

Fellowship + Play/Coloring Time

One volunteer should greet children and families at the door.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Allow children time to engage with one another and play. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or "yay duck"/"yuck duck" of their week?

FREE PLAY & ACTIVITY PAGES

For free time before the lesson, ask children to come to the tables and give them the option to play or color their activity pages (pages in Activity Box). Use this time to ask them questions about their week and get to know them.

TRANSITION: Give children a **warning** before you ask them to come to a circle

SAY *"Everyone, in 5 minutes we are going to pick up our toys and gather in a circle!"*

Sing the clean up song and ask children to come find a seat in the circle.

Activity

CHARADES ("DO WHAT IT SAYS")

Before this activity, write out simple actions on sticky notes (in Activity Box), such as pray, brush your teeth, make a bowl of cereal and eat it, play baseball, etc. Place the cards inside a cup. Ask for a volunteer to draw a card from the cup. Quietly assist kids with reading the action listed on the card. Direct the kid to act out the action listed on the card and challenge the kids to call out their guesses. Allow 20 seconds for the team to guess. Once that action is guessed, ask for another volunteer.

SAY *You all did a great job doing what was on the card. Today, we will see how Ezra taught God's words to the people and told them to do what it said. As we hear our story, we can remember that when we hear God's Word, it's important that we obey it.*

Lesson

As the children gather in a circle on the floor, let them know your expectations - that you would like them to sit quietly, keep their hands to themselves, listen to the story, etc.

1. Open the Bible & Pray

Open to **EZRA** in your Bible. **Reverently display the open Bible.**

SAY *Today, we will be in the book of EZRA, which is in the Old Testament. Let's hear this true story from God's Word.*



Pray quickly for your time in the Word of God.

2. Tell the Bible Story

Use the **visuals** (in Activity Box) if you'd like to help children follow along with the story.

EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW

At last, the walls around Jerusalem were finished! The people got together to hear Ezra the priest read God's Word. Ezra stood on a tall platform, opened a scroll, and began to read aloud God's Word.

Everyone in the crowd listened carefully to God's Word. All the people stood up, and Ezra praised God. The people lifted up their hands. "Amen! Amen!" they said. The people bowed down with their faces close to the ground, and they worshiped God together.

Some of the men there helped the people understand what Ezra read. When the people heard God's Word, they were sad. The people had not been living the way God wanted them to live. They were sorry for disobeying God.

Ezra, his helpers, and Nehemiah said, "Don't be sad! This day is special." Ezra said, "Go home and get ready to have a feast. Today is a special day. Be happy! God makes us strong."

So, the people did what Ezra told them to do. The people got ready to have a feast. They ate good food and had a big party! The people were happy because God gave them His Word to help them do the right things.

The next day, the people came back to learn more from Ezra. They heard that God wanted them to have a special party to remember how God took care of their families long ago when they lived in tents after leaving Egypt.

So, everyone went out and got branches. They made little tents on their rooftops and in their yards. It was the first time they had celebrated this way in a long time, and they were happy because they were doing what God wanted.

CHRIST CONNECTION: *Ezra taught the people about God's rules. Jesus also taught about God's rules, but Jesus did even more—He followed all of God's laws perfectly, died for our sins, and came back to life!*

3. Review the Bible Story

- **Were the people happy or sad when they heard God's law? Why?** *(The people became sad because they realized they had not been obeying God's law.)*
- **What did Ezra tell the people to do instead?** *(He told them to have a feast and a party because God still loved them!)*
- **The people decided to celebrate and remember how God rescued them from Egypt. What did they build?** *(They all made little tents to remember how their ancestors lived in tents after coming out of Egypt.)*
- **In our story today, Ezra read God's Word and then others came and explained the scripture so that the people could better understand it. Do we do something similar at church on Sundays?** *(Yes! In big church, scripture is read aloud and then our pastor comes up and explains the scripture so that we can better understand it.)*

4. Pray

Memory Verse

Open your Bible to **JOHN 20:31** and lead the kids to repeat the verse several times, using hand motions if you'd like:

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

- JOHN 20:31

SAY: *Our key passage reminds us that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Even though we do not always obey God, Jesus followed all of God's law perfectly. He never sinned. Jesus, God's Son, died for our sins and came back to life. Because of Jesus, Christians have forgiveness of sins and the promise of life forever with God.*

SAY IT DIFFERENT WAYS

Invite the class to say the memory verse in lots of fun ways. Some suggestions: loud, soft, high-pitched, low/deep, eyes closed, slow, fast, holding your nose, singing, holding your tongue, etc. Get creative and come up with your own fun ways to learn the memory verse.

PLAY THE MUSIC VIDEO

Have the children repeat the verse with you several times. Then play the memory verse music video from the YouTube app on the Roku TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom*).

Snack + Bible Video

Have students sit at the tables for snack time.

1. **Pass Out Snacks.** Pass out the water and Cheerios in cups. Double check for any allergies on the classroom tablet.
2. **Watch the Bible Lesson Video.** While they eat, you can play the Bible lesson video from the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom*).

Activity

MAKE A SCROLL

Ask children to come to the tables and pass out a piece of construction paper to each child. Tape a **craft stick** (in Activity Box) to the top and bottom of each rectangle to make the ends of a scroll. Write *Jesus is God's Son* somewhere on the papers. Set out the **letter stamps and stamp pads** (in Activity Box) and invite boys and girls to decorate their scrolls with the stamps or markers. Assist preschoolers in rolling up their scrolls and taping them up.

SAY: *In today's Bible story, Ezra taught God's law to His people. As Ezra taught God's law, he read from a scroll. You each made your own scrolls to take home. This scroll can remind you that the words in the Bible help us know that Jesus is God's Son. They also help us know how to live so we can follow and obey God.*



Dismissal

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- Give feedback! Tell parents how the student did that morning.

Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- **Return the small Activity Box and your lanyards to the check-in desk.**