



# Ezra Teaches God's People

Lesson Aim: To love learning about God.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The King Who Builds His Kingdom

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Ezra 7:6, 8-10

**What He Has Done:** God helped Ezra teach His people.

## THE WAY

"Hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

Unit 9: The King Who Builds His Kingdom			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	King Solomon Asks to Be Wise, 1 Kings 3:5-14	God gave King Solomon wisdom.	To know God helps us make good choices.
44	King Josiah Obeys, 2 Kings 22:1-2, 18-19; 23:1-4, 25	God saw King Josiah obey.	To know we should obey God.
45	Ezra Teaches God's People, Ezra 7:6, 8-10	God helped Ezra teach His people.	To love learning about God.
46	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall, Nehemiah 1:3b; 2:3-5; 4:3, 6-9, 15-18; 6:15	God helped Nehemiah rebuild the city wall.	To know God wants us to work together.
47	Queen Esther Helps God's People, Esther 2:7, 9; 4:14-16; 5:1-2; 7:1-3	God gave Queen Esther courage to help His people.	To know God makes us brave.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 119:165-167. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You draw us to You and teach us. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might teach the children. Amen."

## TEACHER'S TIP

**Get excited about God!** If we are excited to be in church and show we love to learn about God, the children are more likely to love learning about God, too! Take time to look through the Bible in your room with the children. Talk with them about their favorite Bible stories.

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# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a Bible
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Ezra Teaches God's People	Coloring pages of Ezra teaching the people, crayons or markers
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> Favorite Bible Stories	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, optional: children's Bible
		<b>Block Center:</b> Ezra's Journey	Blocks, toy people, cars, animals
		<b>Game Center:</b> Listen and Learn	None
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.  <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "This Is the Day"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Blessed Are Those" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks" "Guide Me" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey" "I Will Listen" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 45
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Ezra 7:6, 8-10	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezra 7:6 Visual: Picture of the Bible story or a Bible
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> God's Word in My Heart	Sturdy white paper, tape or glue, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Learn God's Word	None
		<b>Game:</b> Teach God's Word	None
		<b>Snack:</b> Teacher's Treat	Alphabet snack (cereal or candy with words or letters)
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 9, Lesson 45
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Ezra 7:6, 8-10	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Hear and Obey	Beanbag
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Listen and Do	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about listening

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The King who builds His kingdom

## **THE WELCOME**

### **WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a Bible. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember to listen to the Bible and learn about God.**

**Teacher's Note:** These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

### **COLORING CENTER: EZRA TEACHES GOD'S PEOPLE**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of Ezra teaching the people, crayons or markers

#### **DO**

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**Our picture today is of a man named Ezra. Ezra loved God and loved to learn about God. Do you like to learn about God?** (Children respond.) **Who teaches you about God?** (Children respond.) **You can be a teacher, too! You can tell others the Bible stories you know and you can teach them our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Now, can you teach it to someone else in our class?** Give the children a chance to say the Bible Memory Verse to each other.

### **PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools, optional: children's Bible

#### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while sharing their favorite Bible stories. Encourage children to make a Bible or something that reminds them of their favorite Bible story with the play-dough.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**Where do we find stories about God?** (In the Bible.) **Who can tell me one of your favorite Bible stories?** Give children an opportunity to share their favorite Bible stories. Have a children's Bible handy to look at pictures of the children's favorite stories.

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## **BLOCK CENTER: EZRA'S JOURNEY**

### **SUPPLIES**

Blocks, toy people, cars, animals

### **DO**

Children lay blocks in a line to make a road to Jerusalem, then move toy people, cars, animals, or their fingers along the road.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Ezra was a Bible teacher. He loved to teach people about God. One day, a king sent Ezra to the city of Jerusalem to teach the people to obey God's rules. It was a long way to Jerusalem. Can you build a road for Ezra? If you were Ezra, what would you teach the people about God?** (Children respond.) **Who can you teach about God?** (Children respond.)

## **GAME CENTER: LISTEN AND LEARN**

### **SUPPLIES**

None

### **DO**

Children play a listening game to introduce the importance of listening and learning.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**I have a new game for us to play today. It's important that you listen to what I say so you learn what to do. Can you do what I do? Clap your hands.** Children clap their hands. **Lift one foot.** Children lift one foot. **Now, clap your hands then lift one foot.** Children clap their hands and then lift one foot. **Pat your tummy.** Children pat their tummies. **Now, can you do all three motions?** Children do all three.

Choose another series of three moves (e.g. Touch your toes, hug, pat your head three times, wiggle your fingers, turn around, jump, show me your muscles, shake a friend's hand, give a "high five," wave, point to your ears, eyes, nose, or mouth, shout "Hooray!") for the children to follow. Add a fourth or fifth motion for an extra challenge.

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## **PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

**It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away.** Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

<b>"Hear the Word of God and obey it."</b>	Hold hand to ear. The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other. The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>Luke 11:28</b>	(obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The King who builds His kingdom

# THE WORSHIP

**Supplies:** Praise music, optional: musical instruments

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



**God gives us people who teach us about Him and His Word. Let's thank God for giving us Bible teachers.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for Bible teachers who teach us about You and Your Word. Thank You for giving us ears to listen and a mind to learn. Amen.**



**When we listen and learn about God, we want to praise Him all day long!** Sing: "Guide Me."

**The Bible teaches us that one way to praise God is by giving our offering. If you brought a money offering, let's give that to God now.** Collect the offering and sing: "Give Thanks."



**Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello will listen and learn about Ezra, the Bible teacher. Let's call them both to come out for a visit.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 45.



**When we listen to the words in the Bible, we are listening to God's words. Let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse. "Hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28. Let's say it together with the motions.** Practice the verse together a few times.

<b>"Hear the Word</b>	Hold hand to ear.
<b>of God</b>	The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other.
<b>and obey it."</b>	The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. (obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.
<b>Luke 11:28</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



**The Bible says we are blessed when we listen and obey the Word of God. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse Song. Let's sing it together.** Sing: "Blessed Are Those."



Ezra taught God's people

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezra 7:6, picture of the Bible story or a Bible

**Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.**

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

**Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears.** Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

**I have a problem but maybe one of you can help me. I can't remember our Bible Memory Verse. Can anyone tell me what it is?** Choose a volunteer to tell you the verse. ("Hear the Word of God and obey it.") If no one volunteers, ask a helper to tell everyone the verse. **Thank you so much for teaching me the Bible verse. Isn't it wonderful when we can teach each other about God?**

**Teachers are important, aren't they. They share what they know so other people can know those things, too. Our story today is about a special teacher named Ezra. Let's find out what Ezra taught God's people.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Ezra 7:6.



### **WATCH THE WORD: EZRA 7:6, 8-10**

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story or a Bible from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Ezra loved to learn about God.**
- **The king of Persia knew**
- **Ezra was a great teacher**
- **Of God's rules and Bible stories, too!**
  
- **The king sent Ezra to Jerusalem**
- **To teach God's people to obey.**
- **They listened and learned about the Bible,**
- **So they could do things God's way.**

**What was the teacher's name? (Ezra.) Who did Ezra teach the people about? (God.) Who can teach others about God like Ezra did? (We can!)**



Learning about God

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART**

**Purpose:** To remind the children of the story of Ezra teaching God's people.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white paper, tape or glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** From sturdy white paper, cut out two hearts: one should be approximately half the size of the other. Print: "**Ezra Loved God's Word**" on the smaller heart. The children will create a pocket by gluing the smaller heart to the front of the bigger heart. From sturdy white paper, cut out a Bible shape (rectangle) that will fit into the pocket. Print: "**Bible**" on the rectangle.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the hearts.
2. Tape or glue the bottom and sides of the small heart onto the front of the big heart to create a pocket.
3. Color the Bible.
4. Place the Bible inside the heart pocket.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who went to Jerusalem to teach the people?** (Ezra.)
- **Who did Ezra teach about?** (God.)
- **What book tells us stories about God?** (The Bible.)
- **Ezra learned God's Word. Then he taught other people about God.**
- **As your Bible teacher, I read the Bible and teach you about God, just like Ezra!**
- **What should you do when you hear someone read the Bible?** (Listen and learn.)
- **I love to listen to Bible stories. Do you? Let's put our Bibles inside our heart pockets to show we love to listen and learn God's Word just like Ezra.**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: LEARN GOD'S WORD**

**Purpose:** Children will practice the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse with the motions.

**Supplies:** None

**Ezra taught the people about God using God's words. We find God's words in the Bible. Today, we will listen and learn our Bible Memory Verse.**

### **Directions:**

1. Divide the children into three groups.
2. Teach each group one of the following sections of the Bible Memory Verse with the motions:  
**Group 1: "Hear** Hold hand to ear.  
**Group 2: the Word** The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other.  
**of God** The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.  
**Group 3: and obey it."** (obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.
3. Help each group practice their part.
4. Lead the groups in saying their parts and doing the motions in order.
5. Repeat step 4 several times. Give the children a different instruction each time, such as stand up and say the verse, say the verse louder, softer, faster, slower, etc.
6. Close by singing the Bible Memory Verse Song together.

## **GAME: TEACH GOD'S WORD**

**Purpose:** Children will teach the Bible Memory Verse to each other.

**Supplies:** None

**Today, you have listened to story of Ezra the Bible teacher. Let's be like Ezra and take turns being the Bible teacher.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Review the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.  
**"Hear** Hold hand to ear.  
**the Word** The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other.  
**of God** The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.  
**and obey it."** (obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.  
**Luke 11:28** Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
3. **Who would like to teach our Bible Memory Verse to the class?**
4. Choose a volunteer to stand in front of the class to say the Bible Memory Verse with the motions. If they are shy, stand with them or have more than one child stand in front together.
5. Have the class repeat the verse.
6. Encourage each child who volunteers in their future as a great teacher.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: TEACHER'S TREAT**

**Purpose:** Children enjoy a snack reminding them of letters, words, and stories in the Bible.

**Snack Suggestion:** Alphabet snack (cereal or candy with words or letters)

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Each time you come here, you listen to the Bible and learn about God.**
  - **Do you have a favorite Bible story?** (Examples: Jesus' birth, Jesus washes Peter's feet, Jesus walks on water, Ruth and Naomi, David and Goliath, Noah's ark, etc.)
  - **Who would like to teach us your favorite part of that Bible story?** Children take turns telling a favorite part of their favorite Bible story. You may need to guide them by asking who was in the story and what the person or people did.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

<b>"Hear the Word of God  and obey it."  Luke 11:28</b>	Hold hand to ear. The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other. The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. (obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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### **PRAY**

**Let's pray together.** Say a closing prayer with the children.

### **PLAY**

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

### **DISMISSAL**

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SAY & DO: EZRA 7:6, 8-10**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions, then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Ezra loved to learn about God.** (Point to heaven.)
- **The king of Persia knew** (Put hands on head as a crown.)
- **That Ezra was a great teacher,** (Thumbs up.)
- **Of God's rules and Bible stories, too.** (Hold hands open, as if you are holding a Bible.)
  
- **The king sent Ezra to Jerusalem** (Point far away.)
- **To teach God's people to obey.** (Raise index finger, as if giving instructions.)
- **They listened and learned about the Bible,** (Hold hands open, as if you are holding a Bible.)
- **So they could do things God's way.** (Point to heaven.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

### **GAME: HEAR AND OBEY**

**Purpose:** To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Beanbag

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
1. Toss the beanbag to one of the children in the circle as you say, "Child's name can..."
2. Lead the children in saying "**...hear the Word of God and obey it!**"
3. Child tosses the beanbag back to you.
4. Repeat until each child has a chance to say the verse.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: LISTEN AND DO**

**Purpose:** To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

**Our Bible Memory Verse tells us to “Hear the Word of God and obey it.” Let’s practice our listening skills with this game. Listen carefully and do what I tell you to do.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Give an instruction such as sit down, spin in a circle, clap, touch your nose, shake a friend’s hand, wave your hand, jump, stand up, stomp your feet, shout “Praise God!” Help the children follow your instruction. **Great job! You are hearing what I am saying and obeying it.**
3. Repeat with other instructions. You may choose to let the children take turns giving instructions.
4. Play as long as you like.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about listening.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 9, Lesson 45: Ezra Teaches God’s People

**PONDER!** Ezra was a Bible teacher (Ezra 7:6, 8-10). What can we do when our teachers tell us about God? (Listen and learn.)

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: “Lord, thank You for giving us teachers to help us listen and learn Your Bible stories. Help us teach Your stories to others. Amen.”

**PLAY!** In this game, you can be Ezra the Bible teacher! Ask your family to sit down and pretend they are in class. Teach them the words and motions to the Bible Memory Verse, “Hear the Word of God and obey it,” Luke 11:28. Then, teach them the Bible Memory Verse Song “Blessed Are Those” or your favorite song about God.

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

<b>“Hear</b>	Hold hand to ear.
<b>the Word</b>	The pointer finger and thumb of one hand touches the index finger of the other.
<b>of God</b>	The open right hand, with fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>and obey it.”</b>	(obey) Place fists at forehead. Open them as you move outward, staying level with forehead.
<b>Luke 11:28</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.