



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

Whisper Verse: "Listen and learn."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are those who 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 we should ask God for wisdom.
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 we should work hard 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 gives us courage.

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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a Bible
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Listen and learn."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Blessed Are Those" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Guide Me" "I Can Do Everything" "I Will Always Obey" "I Will Listen" "It's Praise Time" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "God Is So Good" "This Is the Day" "Trust and Obey" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarмонт Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 45
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Ezra 7:6, 8-10	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ezra 7:6 Visual: Bible
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: God's Word in My Heart	Sturdy white paper, tape or glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Learn God's Word	None
		Game: Teach God's Word	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Snack: Teacher's Treat	Alphabet snack (cereal or candy with words or letters)
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 45 Color This Story: "Ezra Teaches God's People"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Ezra 7:6, 8-10	None
	Up to 10	Game: Building the Verse	Sturdy paper, large toy blocks, tape
	Up to 10	Game: Listen and Obey	Bible
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about listening

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Listen and learn

THE 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 sticker of the Bible help you remember to listen to the Bible and learn about God. Today's Whisper Verse is "Listen and learn."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Listen and learn."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- "Listen"** The hand cups the ear as if to hear better.
- "(and) learn."** Place the upturned left palm flat in front of the waist. The open fingertips of the right hand tap the palm of the left hand. Move the right hand up ending at the forehead while closing the fingertips. This motion simulates knowledge being taken out of a book and placed in the head.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

"Clean Up Song": **Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!**
 Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Listen and learn," Deuteronomy 31:12. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who builds His kingdom

THE WORSHIP

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 "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—that means it's time to praise God together. We praise Him as the King who builds His kingdom. One way God builds His kingdom is by giving us teachers who tell us Bible stories. 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: "This Is the Day."

Where do we find the stories about God and His people? (The Bible.) Who teaches you the Bible stories? (Teachers, family, friends, pastors, etc.) In today's Bible story, we will learn about a great Bible teacher named Ezra. He helped the people listen and learn about God. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse: "Listen and learn." Let's whisper that together. Review the Whisper Verse together: "Listen and learn." Include sign language.



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.



We can listen and learn something new about God every day. Sing: "I Will Listen."

The Bible says we are blessed when we listen and obey the Word of God. Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song about that. Sing: "Blessed Are Those."



Ezra taught God's people

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned King Josiah obeyed God. Today, we will hear how God helped Ezra teach the people about God. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Ezra 7:6.

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

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a Bible. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- Ezra loved to learn about God.
- The king of Persia knew
- That 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.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Ezra 7:6 from the teacher's Bible.

What can we do when our teachers tell us about God? ("Listen and learn.") That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together. Include sign language or hand motions.



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 for children:

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.")
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **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 and the corresponding motion:
 - **"Blessed are those who hear..."** (Cup hands around ears.)
 - **"...the Word of God..."** (Hold hands open like a Bible.)
 - **"...and obey it."** (Salute like a soldier.)
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. For example: say the verse faster, slower, louder, softer, etc.

GAME: TEACH GOD'S WORD

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

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player

Let's listen and learn our Bible Memory Verse!

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Sing the Bible Memory Verse Song together.
3. **You listened and learned God's words from the Bible! Now you can be like Ezra and teach that Bible verse to others. Who would like to teach us the Bible verse right now?**
4. Choose volunteers to stand in front with you and say verse for the other children to repeat.
5. 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.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Listen and learn."
 - **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 standing in front of the other children and 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.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "God's Word in My Heart" craft. Tell your family how Ezra taught the people about God.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can listen to the Bible, learn about God, and teach others what you know about God, too!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Ezra Teaches God's People." Discuss Bible story and play Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Blessed Are Those" as children color.



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.** (Place palms together and open them as a book.)

- **The king sent Ezra to Jerusalem** (Point far away.)
- **To teach God's people to obey.** (Raise index finger as if giving instruction.)
- **They listened and learned about the Bible,** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **So they could do things God's way.** (Point to heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

GAME: BUILDING THE VERSE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, 13 large toy blocks, tape

Prepare: Print each word of the Bible Memory Verse and reference on an individual strip of paper. Tape a strip each on a toy block.

Teacher Tip: For groups of less than 13 children, give some children more than one block. For groups of more than 13 children, have children take turns or create additional sets of words and blocks to play the game simultaneously.

Directions:

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each word for children to repeat.
2. Give a block to each child and help the children stand in the order of the Bible Memory Verse.
3. Ask the child holding the "Blessed" block to place it on the ground.
4. Have the children say, "Blessed."
5. Repeat with each part of the verse in order until all the blocks are set on the floor in order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: LISTEN AND OBEY

Purpose: Children practice obeying God's Word as instructed in the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible marked with the passages in the list below

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." That is our Bible Memory Verse. We find God's words in the Bible. What should we do when we hear God's Word? (Listen and obey.) I am going to read God's Word and then I will ask you about different choices some children made. If the child obeyed God's Word, clap and stand up tall. If the child did not obey God's Word, sit down.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle as the teacher reads from a Bible in the center of the circle.
2. Read the Bible Verses and examples, allowing the children to respond after each example:

The Bible says, "We will share." Numbers 10:32

Patti shared her crayons with her friend. Did Patti obey God's Word?

Sarah didn't let her friend use her crayons. Did Sarah obey God's Word?

The Bible says, "Show love." Hosea 1:7

Bobby hit his sister. Did Bobby obey God's Word?

Sammy hugged his mommy. Did Sammy obey God's Word?

The Bible says, "Do not steal." Leviticus 19:11a

Billy took Tommy's toy car. Tommy was sad. Did Billy obey God's Word?

Molly asked to hold Sally's doll. She waited patiently for her turn to hold the doll.

Did Molly obey God's Word?



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! Read Ezra 7:6, 8-10 with your family. Ezra was a Bible teacher. Teach each other your favorite Bible story. Some favorites might include Noah's ark, David and Goliath, Jesus' birth, Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and Jesus walks on water.

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 our Whisper Verse, "Listen and learn." Teach them the Bible Memory Verse Song "Blessed Are Those" or your favorite song about God.

Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 11:28

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."