



Worship Illustration: Script
King City Chronicles
Kings & Kingdoms Part 2: Judges through Esther
Unit 9, Lesson 45

Ezra Teaches God's People

Ezra 7:6, 9-10, 23-26; 9: 6, 9-10; 10:1, 11-12

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: The set for Units 7-10 is designed to look like the outside of the King City Herald, a large newspaper building circa 1940's. A door leads to the office. A phone booth provides the place for the superheroes' quick costume changes. The center panel can be removed to reveal the superheroes "Secret Lab," filled with screens and gadgets (similar to Batman's Bat Cave), where the heroes watch over the city. There is a useable fire escape with a door and a ladder down to ground level. There is a ramp on stage right. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Scoop Gibson is a street-wise, savvy reporter who hides his secret identity as superhero "Scripture Guy." Kasey Carter is a young, college-educated reporter (can be male or female) whose secret identity is superhero "Kingdom Crusader." The Philistine was an evil enemy who wanted to take over King City; recently he is trying to change his evil ways. The Obliterator is another evil enemy who wants to take over King City (appears on video or on a side stage).

Plot: Kingdom Crusader teaches the Philistine about Ezra. Scripture Guy uses the "Plutonium Heart" to defend against the Obliterator. We learn that if we turn our hearts toward God, He can build His kingdom through us.

Costumes: Superhero costumes (capes, face masks, body suit, tights, etc.) "SG" emblem is on Scripture Guy costume. "KC" emblem is on Kingdom Crusader costume. Philistine: Black

robe, red mask, Princess Leia wig. Obliterator: Helmet, goggles, leopard coat, gloves.

Props: Bible, "Wisdom Cube," "Plutonium Heart"

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/Outro music suggestion: Heroic music
2. Newspaper box: "Good news" or other triumphant song clip. Music plays when box opened to reveal the Bible.
3. Ray gun blast

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring superheroes is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Video of Philistine and Obliterator available at ResourceWell.org
3. Fallback slide reads "King City Chronicles"
4. A newspaper box holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
5. Scripture Slide: **"For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." Ezra 9:10**
6. Ray gun blast: flashing lights
7. Motto Slide: **"We Give Everything to Honor Our King!"**

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

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Voiceover (VFX: short video intro)

Dateline: King City, a city devoted to the glory of God. But in her dark underbelly, there are villains gathering ... evil men who seek to steal God's glory! Will King City find her hero? Can she be saved and restored to her former glory? For the answer to these questions and more, tune in every week to the King City Chronicles!

Kingdom Crusader (at secret lab)

There you are, Uncle Phil. Thanks for your invention last week. It really helped alot.

Philistine

Yes, the Heart Shield saved the day!

Kingdom Crusader

Well ... the shield did help but it was actually God's Word that saved the day.

Philistine

Really?

Kingdom Crusader

Oh yeah, in fact, I'm learning more each week about how God's Word can turn people's lives around. I'll get out the Good News and show you right now. (She opens box, SFX: Good News, VFX: Beam of light shines from box) Listen to this. This story is about a man of God named Ezra. God used Ezra to rebuild Jerusalem.

Philistine

Ezra? Was he a king?

Kingdom Crusader

No.

Philistine

Was he a warrior? A carpenter?

Kingdom Crusader

No.

Philistine

Well, what did he do? And how did he rebuild Jerusalem?

Kingdom Crusader

Actually, he was a teacher.

Philistine

God used a teacher to rebuild Jerusalem?

Kingdom Crusader

Not just any teacher; he was a Bible teacher!

Philistine (to teachers in audience)

A Bible teacher? Like these teachers?

Kingdom Crusader

Exactly! And like these teachers, Ezra wasn't satisfied to just obey God on the outside. You see, the temple and the city wall of Jerusalem had just been rebuilt. Ezra came to rebuild the hearts of the people in Jerusalem. He loved God and kept God's Word deep down in his heart!

Philistine

Deep down in his heart ... his heart?! That's it!

Kingdom Crusader

That's what?

Philistine

Keep reading! I've got a plan! (exits)

Kingdom Crusader

Wait! I'm not finished with the story! There's so much more. (turns to audience) Like, did you guys know King Artaxerxes was not a follower of God? But, he respected Ezra as an expert on God's laws. (VFX: Scripture Slide) The Bible says: "For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." See that? It was Ezra's heart for God's laws that impressed the king. He sent Ezra to go teach them to the people. The king wanted them to repent and follow God's laws so God would not be angry with the king.

Kingdom Crusader (continues)

When Ezra saw how the people were disobeying God, he tore his robes and cried. As he cried, he confessed the sins of the people to the Lord. Then Ezra gathered all the people and told them to repent. That means to turn away from evil ways and turn to God's ways. They agreed and they even made a plan to change! Hey, that's it! That's how we can rebuild King City. The Obliterator may have damaged the heart of our fair city, but if we teach God's Word to everyone and we all turn back to God, it will make King City even stronger!

Obliterator (on stage or interactive video)

Oh yes, and why don't you hand out T-shirts and put everyone on "Serve Teams" and go help the community?

Kingdom Crusader

That's a great idea! Thanks. Pal...
Obliterator! It's you! You're mocking me!

Obliterator

Did you figure that out all by yourself?

Kingdom Crusader

You may mock me but you cannot mock God!

Obliterator

You are too late with all your 'save the world' nonsense. After you sapped my mind power last week, I took the Wisdom Cube to the King City Library and soaked up enough wisdom to fill a college campus. So prepare to suffer, puny hero! (SFX/VFX: ray blast)

Kingdom Crusader

Help!

Scripture Guy (enters holding Plutonium Heart) **Never fear, Kingdom Crusader! Your heart is safe from that evil Obliterator!**

Obliterator

Scripture Guy! Why must you always show up when I'm having fun?

Scripture Guy

Your idea of fun may be fun for you, but it's no fun to fun around in a fun way that's not fun for others!

Obliterator

I didn't understand a word you said! You're making my brain hurt. Prepare to be blasted! (SFX/VFX: ray blast)

Scripture Guy

You'll never get past the Plutonium Heart!

Obliterator

I'm too smart for your Plutonium Heart. I knew from the start that I could blast you apart! Enough with the nursery rhymes! You two have come to the end of your time! (SFX/VFX: ray blasts) **Why can't I destroy that thing?**

Scripture Guy (raises Plutonium Heart)

Because we have a heart that's built for the King!

Obliterator

I am going to go away! I'll be back to fight another day! (exit)

Kingdom Crusader

We chased him off. Hip, hip hooray! Scripture Guy, where did you get that wonderful heart?

Scripture Guy

It belongs to the Philistine. It's his new, improved Plutonium Heart! He said he wanted to give it back to God.

Kingdom Crusader

Wow, that is huge! Uncle Phil wants to give his heart to God!

Scripture Guy

You mean the Philistine?

Kingdom Crusader

Right...yeah, that's what I meant. I think The Philistine wants to repent just like the people of Jerusalem did in the days of Ezra.

Scripture Guy

Well, I do think he was really sorry! He had tears in his eyes. God is truly changing his heart.

Kingdom Crusader

You know, I just remembered—when Ezra started to confess the sins of the people, a crowd of men, women, and children gathered around him. They were crying too. They were sorry and ready to turn back to doing things God’s way.

Scripture Guy

I think this is a big step for our former enemy. Once God turns our hearts back to Him, He can build His kingdom through us!

Kingdom Crusader

I can hardly wait for the day when the Philistine says our favorite phrase!

Scripture Guy

Yes, let’s all say our motto together, kids!

All

We give everything to honor our King!

(SFX: “Heroic music,” VFX: Motto Slide)