



# Ezra Teaches God's People

**Lesson Aim:** To inspire confession and repentance  
according to God's Word.

## THE WORSHIP

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

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Ezra 7:6, 9-10, 25, 27; 9:6; 10:1

**What He has done:** God used King Artaxerxes and Ezra to spiritually rebuild His people.

**Key Verse:** Ezra 7:10

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Luke 15:8-10

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?"

"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?"

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:6a, 8

| Unit 9: The King Who Builds His Kingdom |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | Bible Story   | What He Has Done  | Lesson Aim  |
| 43                                      | King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba,<br>1 Kings 10:1-10                 | God brought the Queen of Sheba<br>to King Solomon.                          | To know God uses our<br>actions to glorify Himself.                 |
| 44                                      | King Josiah Obeys,<br>2 Kings 22:1-2, 19; 23:1-4, 25                    | God used King Josiah to lead His<br>people to hear and obey God's<br>Word.  | To remember and obey<br>God's Word.                                 |
| 45                                      | Ezra Teaches God's People,<br>Ezra 7:6, 9-10, 25, 27; 9:6; 10:1         | God used King Artaxerxes and<br>Ezra to spiritually rebuild His<br>people.  | To inspire confession and<br>repentance according to<br>God's Word. |
| 46                                      | Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall,<br>Nehemiah 1:3-4; 4:6-20; 6:8-9, 15-16     | God helped Nehemiah rebuild the<br>city wall.                               | To work hard together to<br>build up God's kingdom.                 |
| 47                                      | Queen Esther Helps Save God's People,<br>Esther 2:7, 20; 4:12-16; 5:1-4 | God gave Queen Esther the<br>courage and opportunity to save<br>His people. | To know God gives us<br>courage and opportunities.                  |

## 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."



| Segment     | Minutes  | Activity  | Supplies   |
|-------------|----------|---|--|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 15 | <b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>   | None   |
|             |          | <b>Game:</b> Reverse Your Way   | None   |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | <b>Worship</b><br>Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org | <b>Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b><br>"Do Justly"<br><b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b><br>"Search Me, O God"<br>"To Him Who Sits on the Throne"<br>"You Will Seek Me"<br><b>Additional Hymn Suggestion:</b><br>"Here I Am to Worship"<br>"Trust and Obey"<br><b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b><br>Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1<br>Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz |
|             |          | <b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b><br>1 John 1:8-9   | Bible  |
|             |          | <b>Offering</b>   | Baskets  |
|             |          | <b>Worship Illustration</b>   | Lesson 45 King City Chronicles script or storybook   |
| THE WORD    | Up to 10 | <b>Read the Word:</b> Ezra 7:6, 9-10, 25, 27; 9:6; 10:1   | Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster   |
| THE WAY     | Up to 25 | <b>Discuss the Word</b>   | Poster board or dry erase board, marker, Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster  |
|             |          | <b>Christ Connection:</b><br>Luke 15:8-10   |  |
|             |          | <b>Golden Bowl</b>  |  |
|             | Final 5  | <b>Final Five Minutes</b>   | Treasure Treat—"Ask Me About Ezra" sticker, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Do Justly," CD player   |
| GOT TIME?   | Up to 10 | <b>Snack:</b> Salty Tears Snack   | Salty food (chips or pretzels)   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Game:</b> I Packed My Bag  | None   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Craft:</b> Favorite Proverbs Book—Scripture  | Sturdy paper or index cards, metal brads/fasteners or yarn, hole punch, crayons or markers, glue or glue sticks, assorted craft items (ie. jewels, glitter, and buttons), magazines  |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b><br>Build the Wall Verse   | Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, 47 toy blocks, labels (paper strips and tape)  |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b><br>Royal Corners  | Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible, paper, marker   |
|             | Up to 5  | <b>Bible Timeline Review</b>  | Date with story title or name printed on card  |

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



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: Who is your favorite teacher?**

### **GAME: REVERSE YOUR WAY**

**Purpose:** To introduce the concept of repentance to prepare children for the story of Ezra.

**Supplies:** None

**Prepare:** Determine a start line and a finish line. You can use two opposite walls of a room.

**I'm going to read some statements. If the statement is true for you, then you will take one giant step toward the finish line. If the statement is not true for you, then you have to go back to the start line. The first child to reach the finish line, wins.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Children stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the start line facing the finish line.
2. Say the following statements (or make up your own), one at a time. All children for which a statement is true, take one giant step toward the finish line. All children for which the statement is not true, go back to the start line.
  - a. I am wearing red socks.
  - b. I have a puppy.
  - c. I play soccer.
  - d. I am wearing purple.
  - e. My favorite color is orange.
  - f. My favorite subject in school is math.
3. The game ends when one child reaches the finish line.
4. Play again using different statements, if you have time.

**Each time I read a true statement for you, you were able to take a step toward the finish line. When I read a statement that was not true for you, you had to turn around and start over. In today's story, we will learn about a teacher named Ezra who taught the people about turning around and starting over. He taught them to repent from their sins. To repent means to turn from disobeying and turn toward God to do things His way. Let's learn some more about Ezra.**



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 music as children move to the designated area.



**We worship the King who builds His kingdom. We worship Him with our voices, and with our every day actions. When we do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God, we are worshiping Him with our lives.** Sing Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse  
Song: "Do Justly."

Sing: "Here I Am to Worship" as offering is collected.



**God's kingdom is filled with all those who believe in His Son, Jesus. Everyone, including those in His kingdom, does wrong sometimes in God's eyes. That's called sin. Listen to the promise we have when we confess or admit our sins to God.** Read 1 John 1:8-9.



Sing: "Search Me, O God." **Let's kneel and silently ask God to show our hearts any ways we have sinned this week. Admit your sins to God. Then, together, we will tell Him we are sorry and thank Him for forgiving us.** Lead the children in prayer. Include time for silent confession and for thanksgiving.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 9, Lesson 45.



Ezra and God's people confess and repent

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned about King Josiah. How old was he when he became king? (8 years old.) What did he read to the people? (The Book of the Law or God's law.) Over the years, some of the kings who came after Josiah did evil in the sight of the Lord. Then, because God's people refused to obey Him, God let them be captured by the Babylonians.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson.

**Many years later, God moved the heart of Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, to let Ezra return to Jerusalem. He sent Ezra there to teach the people to obey God's laws and to appoint fair and right judges to uphold those laws. Ezra led over 1,000 people back to Jerusalem from Babylon.** If a map is available, point out Ancient Babylon (modern day Iraq) and Jerusalem, Israel.



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Ezra 7:6, 9-10, 25, 27; 9:6; 10:1.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Ezra 7: 6, 9-10.

**The King wrote a letter to Ezra describing Ezra's job.** Read Ezra 7:25. **Let's read Ezra's words of praise to God about the king's choice to send him to Jerusalem.** Read Ezra 7:27.

**When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem and he saw how the people had disobeyed God by marrying idol worshipers, he confessed their sins to God and he cried.** Read Ezra 9:6; 10:1. **The people also confessed their sin and made a plan to repent—they turned to God and obeyed!**



Confessing and repenting

## THE WAY

**Who did King Artaxerxes send to Jerusalem to teach the people God's laws? (Ezra.) God chose Ezra—the one with the heart for teaching His law. Ezra studied and obeyed God's laws and he loved to teach those laws.**

**Ezra saw the people had disobeyed God by marrying idol worshippers. He confessed their sin to God. To confess sins is to admit wrongdoings to God. Sin is disobeying God or doing wrong in His eyes. Why was Ezra crying?** (He was very upset that the people were disobeying God.) **Who joined Ezra when they saw he was crying and confessing?** (A crowd of men, women, and children.) **They were so sorry for their sins that they cried, too. During our worship time today, we had a special time to confess our sins. The Bible says God always forgives those who believe in Jesus when they confess their sins.**

**Have you ever been so sorry for your wrongdoing that you cried?** (Children respond.) **After confessing, Ezra led the people to repent. To repent means to turn from disobeying and turn toward God to do things His way. We are not truly sorry for our sin unless we want to repent. When we confess and repent, we show God that He is most important in our lives.**

**Let's make a list of things children your age sometimes do that are wrong in God's eyes. Write list of sins on a poster board or dry erase board. Now, let's brainstorm ways to repent from these sins, by replacing a wrong behavior with a right one. What is the right choice we can turn to instead of continuing to make this wrong choice?** (Children respond.) With each sin on the list, guide children in discovering a specific way to stop the wrongdoing and to turn toward doing it God's way. Be specific about what God's way would be in each situation.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**More than 500 years after Ezra led the people to confess their sins and repent, Jesus told a parable to help us understand how important it is to God that we repent. Let's check it out!**



**Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Luke 15:8-10. Let's find this scripture.** Read Luke 15:8-10.

**What happens in heaven when one sinner repents?** (There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God.) **God sees you and knows your heart. He sees you when you choose to turn away from sin and turn to God to do things His way. That is repenting. Each time you repent, heaven celebrates!**

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8** says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is an "Ask Me About Ezra" sticker. Most folks don't know very much about Ezra. Wear this sticker today and tell everyone that Ezra was a Bible teacher who taught God's law to His people. Ezra led them in confessing and repenting from their sins.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 45 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Ezra and the crowd praying and crying because they were sorry for their wrongdoings.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Do Justly," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: SALTY TEARS SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children enjoy a salty snack to remind them of Ezra's tears as he confessed the people's sins.

**Snack Suggestion:** Salty food (chips or pretzels)

Ezra taught the people about God's laws. Ezra cried because he was sorry the people had disobeyed God. Disobeying God or doing wrong in His eyes is called sin. The people were so sorry for their sins that they cried, too. Then, they confessed their sins. That means they admitted their sins to God. Let's eat a salty snack to help us remember the salty tears the people cried. Ezra was a good teacher; he taught the people how to love God by confessing their sins and obeying Him.

**Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What would you like to teach others about God?"**

### **GAME: I PACKED MY BAG**

**Purpose:** To remind children to listen carefully and remember.

**Supplies:** None

It took Ezra four months to travel from Babylon to Jerusalem. The king allowed over 1,000 men to go with Ezra. Imagine what Ezra must have packed for such a journey. In this game, we will imagine we are going on a long journey. Let's see if we can remember what everyone packs.

**Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. First child says, **"I packed my bag and in it I put list one object."**
3. Second child says, **"I packed my bag and in it I put first child's object and add an object."**
4. Each child in the circle recalls the items already listed and adds one item.
5. If a child cannot remember all the items, then the next child starts over with one item.
6. The goal of the game is to see how many items can be remembered.

**Variation:** Instead of starting over when a child can't remember the list of items, work together to remember the list. Play the game until each child has added an object to the list.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: FAVORITE PROVERBS BOOK—SCRIPTURE**

**Purpose:** Children create their own book of verses from Proverbs.

**Supplies:** Sturdy paper or index cards, metal brads/fasteners or yarn, hole punch, crayons or markers, glue or glue sticks, assorted craft items (ie. jewels, glitter, and buttons), magazines

**Prepare:** For each child, print or write each of the following proverbs on a 3-inch x 5-inch sheet of paper or index card. Children will also need two blank 3-inch x 5-inch cards for a cover.

- **Proverbs 3:1** "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart."  
Meaning: Do not forget wise teachings. Keep wise commands in your heart.
- **Proverbs 4:4** "He taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live."  
Meaning: My father taught me saying "Remember my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live."
- **Proverbs 4:5** "Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them."  
Meaning: Get wisdom and understanding. Don't forget my words or turn away from them.
- **Proverbs 19:27** "Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."  
Meaning: If you stop listening to teaching, you will wander away from the words of knowledge.
- **Proverbs 6:23** "For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life."  
Meaning: Your father's commands are like a lamp. Your mother's teaching is like a light. And the training that corrects you leads to life.

**Teacher Tip:** This craft is designed to be completed in Lessons 43-47 with children bringing their books and adding new proverbs each lesson; however, each lesson's book can be created individually.

**Ezra studied God's laws. Then, he went to Jerusalem to teach the people about God's laws. Where do we find God's laws today?** (In the Bible.) **What did the people do after Ezra taught them about God's laws?** (They confessed and repented their sins.)

**When you listen to and learn God's Word, you will know how to obey Him. You will know when you do wrong and need to confess and repent. Let's add five proverbs about knowing God's Word to our Favorite Proverbs Book.**

### **Directions:**

1. If needed, give each child a 3-inch x 5-inch sheet of paper or index card for a title page. Create a title page by writing "Favorite Proverbs" in large letters.
2. Give each child a set of today's proverb pages.
3. **Ezra taught God's Word. Decorate your proverb pages with a picture of your favorite teacher. You can color or cut out a picture of a gift you would like to give your teacher.** Provide assorted craft supplies as well as magazines for children to cut pictures representing gifts for their teacher.
4. Read and discuss the proverbs that are being added to the Favorite Proverbs Book today.
5. Place the proverb pages together in a stack with the title page on top. Give children an additional sheet of paper or index card for a back cover.
6. Make sure the page edges are even and punch two holes down the left side of the stack.
7. Fasten the book together with yarn or metal brads/fasteners.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?"

"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?"

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:6a, 8

### **GAME: BUILD THE WALL VERSE**

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, 47 toy blocks, labels (paper strips and tape)

**Prepare:** Print or write one word from the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse on individual labels or strips of paper. Stick one word on each block. Mix up the blocks. Display the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster.

**Optional:** To make the game more challenging, divide the class into teams. Have teams compete to see who can put the blocks in order the quickest.

#### **Directions:**

1. Say the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse together several times.
2. Place the blocks in a pile.
3. The children work together to stack the blocks in the correct order.
4. Read the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse together from the blocks.

### **GAME: ROYAL CORNERS**

**Purpose:** Children play this version of "Four Corners" to learn the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible, paper, marker

**Prepare:** Write one of these four names each on a piece of paper: King Saul, King Solomon, King David, and Queen Esther. Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

**Our Bible Memory Verse gives the secret to being a good king or queen. It is to worship God by acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God.** (Read Bible Memory Verse.) **Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by playing "Royal Corners."**

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room to count aloud to 10 with his/her eyes closed.
2. Children rush to stand in different corners before the Caller says, "10."
3. Caller calls out one of the four corners.
4. All children in that corner recite the Bible Memory verse together as quickly as possible.
5. Choose another Caller and play again. All children remain in the game.
6. Play as long as you like or as time allows.

**Optional:** For a more competitive version, the children whose corner is called recite the Bible Memory verse together and then sit down. Play continues until only a few remain in the game.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.)** King Solomon was the son of King David. He asked God for wisdom. What did King Solomon become famous for? (His wisdom and riches and for the temple and palace he built.) What did the Queen of Sheba do after King Solomon answered all her questions? (She praised God.)

**Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.)** How old was Josiah when he became king? (8 years old.) During temple repairs, his priest found and read the Book of the Law to him. What did King Josiah do when he learned he had been disobeying God without knowing it? (He tore his robes, read the Book of the Law to the people, promised to obey, and cleared the land of the false idols.)

**Ezra (500 B.C.)** Why did King Artaxerxes send Ezra to Jerusalem? (To teach the people to obey God's laws. Ezra loved to study and teach God's laws.) What did Ezra do when he saw the people were disobeying God? (He confessed their sins to God.) Who joined Ezra when he was crying and confessing? (A crowd of men, women, and children. They cried with him.) After confessing, what did Ezra lead the people to do? (Repent: To stop disobeying and turn toward God to do things His way.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

**Judges – Esther:** Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

**Teacher Tip:** To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.