



UNIT 18 | SESSION 3 | FEBRUARY 15-16, 2020

2s-3s Lesson

God's People Repented

Bible Passage: Nehemiah 8-13

Story Point: God's people promised to obey God.

Key Passage: "God ... will himself restore ... you after you have suffered a little while." 1 Peter 5:10

Christ Connection: God sent His son Jesus to save us from our wrong choices.

KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES

LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES

SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Ezra was a priest in Babylon at the end of the exile. More than 50 years after the first group of exiles returned to Jerusalem and completed and dedicated the temple, Ezra led a second group back to Jerusalem.

Just as God had been with Nehemiah, He was with Ezra—granting him favor with the Persian king. The king gave Ezra permission to go to Jerusalem. He provided Ezra with a letter and access to resources to ensure safe travel. (See Ezra 7:11-26.)

Ezra traveled to Jerusalem with a purpose. God's people had spent 70 years in exile, and they needed to be reminded how to live. As a scribe, Ezra was an expert on the law of Moses, and he had "determined in his heart to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10).

Under Nehemiah's leadership, the people had rebuilt Jerusalem's walls. They gathered together at the Water Gate to hear the law of Moses. Men, women, and children—anyone who could understand—came to listen to the reading of God's Word.

From early morning until midday, Ezra read from the book of the law of Moses. He stood on a high

wooden platform where everyone could see and hear him. Ezra opened the book of the law, and everyone stood up. The Levites helped the listeners understand the words of the law. The people reacted strongly to hearing and understanding the law of Moses. Verse 9 says the people wept. The law revealed their sin, and they repented.

God's Word is powerful. The law reveals our sin and how short we fall of meeting God's standard. As you teach preschoolers, help them recognize that we cannot meet God's requirements. We need a Savior. God sent Jesus to obey the law perfectly and die for our sins. We can trust in Him for salvation.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

MAKE A FEAST

(Paper Plates, 2 per child, Food Stickers, 3-4 per child)

Give each child two paper plates. Invite preschoolers to choose their favorite foods and stick them on the paper plates. Encourage children to give one paper plate of food to another child. Talk about the times that we gather for meals with others.

SAY • I wish the food on your plates was real! We could have a feast! In today's Bible story, Ezra told the people to get ready for a feast. He told them to eat good food and drink good drinks and to share what they made with people who didn't have any food or drinks. Listen to the Bible story to hear why Ezra told the people to celebrate.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: WHEN I LOOK UP, VIDEO: GOD WILL!)

Sing "When I Look Up" and "God Will!"

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Nehemiah 8 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Last week our Bible story was from the first part of Nehemiah. This week our story is from the last part of Nehemiah. The Bible is God’s Word, and it is true!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God saves people through His Son, Jesus.

SAY • I love sharing stories from the Bible with you every week! In today’s story, God’s people had not heard His Word for a very long time (*hold up Bible*). Let’s find out what happens when they hear God’s Word after all that time.

Show the Bible story video.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: GOD’S PEOPLE REPENTED, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

SAY • When the people understood God’s Word, they realized they had not been living the way God wanted them to live. They were sorry for disobeying God. God’s people promised to obey God, but they needed God to change their hearts.

CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

SAY • The Bible teaches us about God. It helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things a lot, but God can change our hearts and help us obey. God sent His son Jesus to save us from our wrong choices.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the Key Passage Marker at 1 Peter 5:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

SAY • “God will (*pump fist upwards*) himself (*point up*) restore you (*display same arm in front*) after you have suffered a little while (*roll fists in front*)” 1 Peter 5:10 (*open hands like a book*).

To restore means to bring something back to the way it was meant to be. God’s Word, the

Bible, can restore us. God's Word reminds us of the truth of who we are and who God is.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Nehemiah 8-13

Story Point: God's people promised to obey God.

Key Passage: "God ... will himself restore ... you after you have suffered a little while" 1 Peter 5:10.

Christ Connection: God sent His son Jesus to save us from our wrong choices.

CHOOSE TO OBEY

(No Supplies Needed)

Share different situations with preschoolers. Invite preschoolers to stand with you when the person is obeying and sit down with you when the person is disobeying. Use the following situations or create your own. Use happy and sad facial expressions to show whether a situation is obeying or disobeying.

Mateo shared his toys (stand together)

Jada hit her brother (sit together)

Isabela picked up blocks like her teacher asked her to do (stand together)

Jordan said no to his dad (sit together)

SAY • God's Word tells us the right way to live. When we disobey God's Word, we are disobeying God. God can help us obey Him and make good choices.

FREEZE DANCE

(Worship Music)

Invite children to dance with you when the music is playing. Encourage them to listen for the music to stop AND to stop their bodies. This is a good way to work on impulse control as well. Stop the song occasionally and see who freezes their bodies.

SAY • The people went home happy because they understood God's words. Nehemiah helped the people to turn back to God. They promised to worship only God and obey His rules.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. "God will (*pump fist upwards*) himself (*point up*) restore you (*display same arm in front*) after you have suffered a little while (*roll fists in front*)" 1 Peter 5:10 (*open hands like a book*).

GOSPEL GEMS

(Bible Story Picture, 1 per group, Key Passage Card, 1 per group, small Bibles)

Provide small Bibles for preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide preschoolers to say it. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 8. Show the Bible story picture as you retell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers.

- Ezra read God's words to the people.
- The people heard God's words and turned back to God.
- The Bible is God's words to us.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card & Story Point coloring page (optional), 1 per child)

Two & Three-year olds may color the optional Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool Christ Connection with their child this week.