

**Read the Word:** Ezra 7:1–10

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss life lessons from Ezra and how to put them into action.

Discuss the following Key Events and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Event: Ezra Was a Leader (Ezra 7:11–28; 8:1–20)**

**LIFE LESSON 1:** Encourage everyone around you to learn God's Word and live by it, especially your family members.

- *Who in your sphere of influence needs encouragement to follow God's Word? What is one meaningful way you could encourage them this week?*
- *What are some practical ways your family can learn God's Word together?*

**LIFE LESSON 2:** God works through human governments. Pray for Him to give you favor with those who govern, no matter how wicked they may be.

- *Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that God can work through leaders or governments we disagree with or distrust?*
- *Paul instructed believers to pray for all those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1–2). What specific government leaders—local, national, or global—can your family pray for this week, asking God to give you favor and to guide them according to His will?*



**Key Event: Ezra Was a Man of Prayer (Ezra 8:21–23; 9:1–15)**

**LIFE LESSON 3:** Seek God in prayer daily, especially during times of difficulty and transition.

- *Why is prayer—especially humble, dependent prayer—so important when we're facing big decisions or major transitions?*
- *How can fasting or intentional prayer recalibrate our hearts when fear or pressure tempts us to rely on human solutions?*

**LIFE LESSON 4:** Pray for your nation and its leaders, confessing sin and asking God to draw people to Himself.

- *Why is confession (both personal and corporate) an essential part of praying for national renewal?*
- *What specific spiritual needs—repentance, humility, wisdom, courage—should we be praying for in the people and leaders of our nation?*



## **Key Event: Ezra Was a Man of Scripture (Ezra 7:1-10; Nehemiah 8:1-12)**

**LIFE LESSON 5:** Like Ezra, be a lifelong learner of God's Word, obey it, and share it with others.

- *In what ways could you better learn God's Word, obey it, and share it with others?*
- *How does obedience to Scripture deepen understanding in ways that knowledge alone cannot?*

**LIFE LESSON 6:** In addition to your personal Bible study, consistently sit under the teaching of pastors, teachers, and group leaders who can help you understand God's Word.

- *How does listening to sermons, Sunday School teachers, or small group leaders help you grasp Scripture in deeper or clearer ways?*
- *According to the passage we studied today, the people had discarded God's Word and fallen into the sinful trappings of the world. How does faithful teaching of Scripture help believers recognize and resist sinful or deceptive cultural influences?*

**Build a foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary age students.

- What are some lessons you learned from the Israelites' disobedience to following God's way?
- What lessons do you learn about prayer from Ezra's life?
- What lessons do you learn from Ezra about growing your faith?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: *Psalm 34:4*



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

The Israelites were allowed to return to their homeland in 538 BC. This group was called the remnant. (A remnant is a small portion of something that remains).

### **Everyday Extras:**

Make it a priority to learn God's Word together as a family. When your children see you learning God's Word and applying it to your life, it helps reinforce the value and importance of what it says. Talk about what your child has read from God's Word and how it applies to his or her life. Also, be sure to pray together as a family—not just at mealtimes but throughout the day—thanking Him for His protection and provision and asking Him to help you in difficult situations. Use everyday opportunities to share your faith with your child and invite your child to share how his or her faith is growing.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned Joseph knew God was always with him and he trusted God when things in his life were good and when things were bad. God used the different events in Joseph's life to help his family when they were going through a hard time. Because Joseph lived by faith, he is in the Faith Hall of Fame. **I Can Live by Faith like Joseph did.**