

Restoring God's Law



Key Passages

- Ezra 7:9–10, 9:5, 10:1

Lesson Focus

- God used Ezra in a special way.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Esther Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 6 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how God used Ezra to help the people understand their sin and to teach them God's Law.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Temple Poster Scrolls

Students will pick up the scrolls placed around the classroom while marching and then add them to the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster used in Lesson 5. You will use this poster again in Lesson 9.



Activity 2: I Can Pray Scroll

Students will color and roll up a scroll of their own.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you, together, or individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one Esther Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Esther Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print one copy of the Lesson Illustration to show during class.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Quarters 3 and 4 Lesson Flip Charts
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Illustration



TEMPLE POSTER SCROLLS

- Print the Temple Poster Components from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print enough scrolls so each student has one.
- Hide/place the scrolls around the room for the children to find.
- Print, color, and cut out the Ezra figure.
- Attach the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster used in Lesson 5 to the wall.

- Temple Poster Scroll for each student
- Ezra figure
- Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lesson 5
- Teacher Classroom Poster Guide
- Tape or poster putty



I CAN PRAY SCROLL

- Print and cut out one I Can Pray Scroll from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student and one for you to assemble.
- Assemble a scroll to show as an example. See activity directions on how to assemble the scrolls.

- I Can Pray Scroll for each student
- Crayons
- Tape
- Two straight plastic drinking straws per student
- Narrow piece of ribbon per student
- Assembled scroll to show



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- No preparation necessary.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks
- Student Take Home Sheets



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

After the 70 years of captivity were completed, God stirred the heart of King Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1). Under the leadership of Zerubbabel and encouragement from the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the first phase of the return from exile was completed in 515 BC as the Temple was completed (Ezra 6). The second return was led by Ezra almost 50 years later in 467 during the reign of the Persian king Artaxerxes (Ezra 7). The third return was led by Nehemiah, and we will talk about that in the next lesson.

Ezra, who is presumed to be the author of this book, traces his lineage back to Aaron to establish his proper claim to the priesthood of God (Ezra 7:1–5). While in Babylon, Ezra had been trained as a scribe in the Law of Moses and prepared his heart to do and teach the Law in Israel. As with the first return, God directed the king to send Ezra back to Jerusalem. The king also sent a letter of passage and commanded that money be provided from the king's treasury and from the provinces around Israel. Ezra was also to set up a government and to teach the people of the land to rightly worship God. As all this unfolded, Ezra recognized God's hand directing all of these events and offered Him praise for His goodness (7:27–28).

After gathering all those who desired to return, Ezra and the whole group fasted and prayed for God's protection as they traveled to Israel with the gold, silver, and other precious things to beautify the Temple (Ezra 8:1–30). As they journeyed about 1,000 miles to Jerusalem, God protected them along the way. The riches were recorded at the Temple, and sacrifices were offered for the sins of the nation before God. But Ezra was about to uncover more sin that would need to be dealt with.

Ezra learned that many of the people and leaders, even the priests, had been intermarrying with the pagan nations. This is something that was expressly forbidden by God way back when He delivered instructions to the Israelites in preparation for them to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 7:1–5). As Ezra realized how far away the Israelites were from worshipping God rightly and obeying His commands, he was grieved (Ezra 9:1–4). Ezra poured out his heart to God and acknowledged the sins of the people.

As Ezra was praying in front of the Temple, people gathered around him and recognized, through the

truth of his words, that they had sinned. God convicted them through Ezra's words, and they wept bitterly (10:1–2). One man, Shechaniah, spoke up on behalf of the people and acknowledged their sin. But there was hope! He knew that if they repented and turned back to following God's Law, they could be restored to a right relationship with their Creator.

The responsibility of teaching truth and asking God to cleanse Israel from its sin fell on Ezra. The leaders were assembled from around the region, and Ezra taught them the truth about their pagan wives. In response, there was mass repentance, and arrangements were made to begin purifying Israel and dissolve the pagan marriages. In all, the process took three months. In response to their sin, they offered sacrifices to God to cover their sin.

What brought about the change in the people of Israel? Prior to Ezra's arrival in Jerusalem, the other leaders had neglected to teach the people the truth of God's Word. Ezra reversed that situation and called people to do what was right in the eyes of God. God uses people to bring about His plans in the world. It was through the faithfulness of Ezra and his desire to see God's Law taught and obeyed that God brought repentance to the Jews in and around Jerusalem.

As a teacher, parent, or friend, you have that same opportunity to proclaim the truths of God's Word. You have the opportunity to influence many people. Proclaiming the truths of God's Word can lead unbelievers to understand their sin and need for a Savior. Proclaiming the truths of God's Word can lead believers to a deeper relationship with Jesus, recognizing how much they have been forgiven. As an ambassador representing the King of kings, proclaim His truths so that others can know Him more fully.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

A very interesting feature of the book of Ezra is the detail in the lists. Chapter 8 includes an extensive list of the heads of the households and the number of those who accompanied Ezra. If this were a story that someone had made up, we would not expect to see such detail. These details are confirmation of the truthfulness of Scripture and should assure us that God has given us a trustworthy set of writings in the Bible.

When God chose Israel as a special nation for His own purposes, He also set them apart from the nations that surrounded them and those that they were to

drive out of the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 7:6–8). God had forbidden them to intermarry with the pagan nations because He knew that they would be led astray to worship idols (Deuteronomy 7:1–5). This is exactly what happened many times throughout Israel’s history. Even leaders like King Solomon were led away by their pagan wives to worship idols (1 Kings 11). As Ezra returned to Jerusalem after the exile, that was the condition of the leaders of Israel—they had married wives from the surrounding nations.

Since Christ had not yet come to bear the sins of the world, the sins of the Israelites still had to be covered by sacrifices offered at the Temple. The rebuilt Temple had been functioning for nearly 50 years, and the priests offered sacrifices for themselves and the people (Ezra 10:19). While it was necessary for these priests to offer sacrifices for their own sin, they were awaiting the Messiah who would come and offer a perfect sacrifice once for all (Hebrews 7:26–28).



BEFORE THE THRONE

Holy Lord, I give you praise for who you are— God almighty, the most high God, everlasting God. Humbly, I ask you to reveal any area in my own life that may be overshadowing you. Do I harbor any idols? Have I chosen pleasure over obedience and sacrifice this week? I do not want to study a lesson like this one and walk away unchanged. You know, I’m tempted to judge the Jews for their repeated disobedience. I may think I could never be like that. But I would be lying. My heart is deceitful and wicked. Holy Spirit give me the strength to overcome the daily temptation to give in to my heart’s desires. Instead fill me with a longing to please you and obey your Word without compromise. Help me teach this lesson in such a way that my students also feel the urgency and necessity of living a life of faithfulness, service, and obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit.

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Esther Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 6.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, Lesson Illustration, Quarter 3 Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson. See the Lesson Preparation chart for details (page 2).

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us.

I'll start. Dear God, you are an awesome God. I want to thank you for . . .
(insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number*. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.**

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 11 Flip Chart Page. Remember how most of the people of God, called the Jews, had been taken away from their home in Judah? God sent Babylon to destroy Judah because the people would not obey. Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 12 Flip Chart Page. They were taken to the land of Babylon. And God told them, through Jeremiah, that they would stay there for 70 years. Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart Page. Then after 70 years were up, God led a man

named Zerubbabel to go back to Jerusalem with some of the Jews so they could rebuild something that had been destroyed!

? Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart Page. Does anyone remember what they wanted to rebuild? *The Temple.*

That's right. They wanted to rebuild the Temple so they could have a place to worship God together.

Well, when Zerubbabel went back to Judah, he didn't take all of the Jews. He only took some of them. Now we will read that God wanted more of His people to return to Judah. Refer to Flip Chart Page. This time God used another man named Ezra in a very special way. We will learn what is going on here in this picture as we read today. Let's get started. God's Word tells us all about it! Let's look in the book called Ezra. Open the Bible to the book of Ezra. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is right here. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle. Let's read from God's Word and find out what happened. Ezra was leading more of the Jewish people home. But someone was leading Ezra.

Listen carefully as I read. You will hear that someone's hand was on Ezra. I am going to read Ezra 7:9. Read Ezra 7:9 emphasizing "good hand of his God."

Ezra 7:9

Someone was leading Ezra all the way from Babylon to his home in Jerusalem.

? Who was leading Ezra? *God.*

Yes. Saying God's hand was on him is the same as saying God was leading him. And we're going to see how God was going to use Ezra. We've learned that God uses His people to do His will. Ezra wanted God to use him.

Let's read the next verse, it tells us something about Ezra. Read Ezra 7:10 emphasizing "prepared his heart."

Ezra 7:10

? What did Ezra prepare? *His heart.*

Ezra made sure his heart was ready to serve God!

? What was Ezra going to seek or look for? *The Law of the Lord.*

? And what did Ezra want to do with the Law of the Lord? Re-read Ezra 7:10 emphasizing "to do it" and "teach." He wanted to do it and teach it.

Ezra loved God and wanted to obey Him. And to do that, he needed to know God's laws. But Ezra also wanted to teach the other people in Jerusalem all about God's laws so they could love and obey God, too. Yes. God was going to use Ezra in a very special way.

? Do you think Ezra was excited about going back to Jerusalem? Or maybe he was nervous? What do you think? Allow for answers.

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Ezra 9:5

Ezra may have been nervous or excited to be going home. We know that he wanted to obey God. But, when he got home, he found that the people were NOT obeying the Law of the Lord. Ezra loved God's laws, and he loved the people. But they were disobeying God! Oh, no! Ezra was surprised and REALLY upset. So he did something right away.

Listen as I read and see if you can figure out what Ezra did. *Read Ezra 9:5 emphasizing "fell on his knees" and "spread out his hands."*

- ? Did you hear the answer? What did Ezra do? *Fell on his knees.*
- ? He fell on his knees. What was he doing on his knees? *Praying.*
- ? Who was Ezra praying to? *God.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. That's right. Ezra fell on his knees and prayed to God.

- ? But what did he do with his hands? *Spread them out to the Lord.*

I think this is what Ezra did because he was so upset that the people were not obeying God. *Get down on your knees and raise your hands to show the children what Ezra did. Have them do the same!* Ezra began to pray to God about the people's disobedience. Ezra was ashamed of the people's sin. He began to weep and cry while he prayed. He was sad about all the sin he saw around him. But God was using Ezra in a special way.

You see, Ezra was out where people could see him at the Temple. *Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page.* And the people out there were watching him. They heard what he was saying to God! Then something happened while Ezra was asking God to please forgive the sins of all the people. What do you think happened?

Ezra 10:1

I'm going to read some more. Listen to this! *Read Ezra 10:1 emphasizing "wept very bitterly."*

- ? *Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page.* Again, what was Ezra doing? *Ezra 10:1. Praying, confessing, weeping, and bowing down.*
- ? What happened? What did the people start to do? *Ezra 10:1. Wept very bitterly. Cried.*
- ? And who were there? *Men, women, and children.*

That's right. Men, women, and children could all hear Ezra crying out to the Lord and asking for forgiveness of their sins. They were reminded of how wrong it was to disobey God. They were very sorry for their sin, so they began to weep and cry, too!

God used Ezra to teach the people about His laws. And when they heard Ezra's prayer, they understood that they were not obeying God. God used Ezra to teach the people how to obey God. Through Ezra's prayer and teaching, the people turned their hearts back to the Lord.

God showed the people that they were wrong for disobeying. When the people understood their sin, they were sorry and wanted to obey God again.

? *Show Lesson Illustration.* God was pleased with Ezra's prayer and answered him. What should we do when we sin? *Pray. Tell God. Ask Him to forgive us.*

God wants us to pray to Him—even when we sin. God knows our hearts, doesn't He? And just like Ezra prayed for the people when they had sinned, we can pray, too, and tell God how sorry we are when we disobey Him. God can forgive us of our sins because of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth, He lived a perfect life, He never sinned, and then He died on the Cross for sinners. The Bible tells us that anyone who believes in Him and turns away from sin can have forgiveness and eternal life.

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Let's sing the song about how Jesus can clean out the sin in our hearts. *Sing "Clean My Heart."*

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. And guess what? We have a new memory verse. It is Nehemiah 9:6. This verse talks about God. It says that He alone is the Lord! He made the heavens, the earth, the seas, and ALL that is in them. He is a GREAT God. And we should praise Him, honor Him, fear Him, love Him, thank Him, and adore Him. Let's sing this a couple times! *Sing a couple of times pointing out the words on the Flip Chart. Then sing together.*

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



Temple Poster Scrolls

MATERIALS

- Temple Poster Scroll for each student placed around the room
- Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lesson 5 (you will use this poster again in Lesson 9)
- Ezra figure for Classroom Poster
- Teacher Classroom Poster Guide
- Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one scroll for each student. Place/hide them around the room for the students to find. Attach the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lesson 5 to the wall.

Using the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lesson 5, review briefly using the script below. After the discussion below, you will lead the students in a march around the room until each student has found a scroll. They can return to their seats. When you are ready, they will come up one at a time and add their scroll to the poster.

- ? **What did Ezra teach the people?** *God's laws.*
- ? **What did the people see Ezra doing outside the Temple?** *Praying. Weeping. Crying.*
- ? **How did the people feel about their sin?** *They were sorry. They cried.*

Look up here at our poster of the Temple. This is Zerubbabel. *Point out Zerubbabel on the poster.* God used him to lead the people from Babylon back to Jerusalem. He led the people to rebuild the Temple. Today

we learned that God used Ezra, too. Ezra was sad when he came back to Jerusalem and saw that the people were disobeying God. Ezra taught God's laws to the people. *Attach the Ezra figure to the poster.* Here is Ezra at the Temple. This is where Ezra prayed and taught the people.

Back then, God's Word was written on scrolls. *Show scroll example.* We have some scrolls that are placed/hidden all over this room. We will walk around in a line and see if we can each find one scroll. I want you to follow me. *Guide students as they look for the scrolls.*

OK. Everyone back to your seats. Let's put the scrolls on our poster one at a time. Remember, Ezra prayed and taught God's Word at the Temple. God's Word was written on scrolls. They didn't have the Bible yet!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God sent Ezra home to Jerusalem. He used Ezra in a very special way. Ezra loved God and wanted to obey God's laws and teach them to the people. God gave Ezra the skill to teach so the people could understand how to obey God again. God's Word was read and taught at the Temple.



I Can Pray Scroll

MATERIALS

- I Can Pray Scroll for each student
- Crayons
- Tape
- Straight plastic drinking straws (2 per student)
- Narrow ribbon per student
- Assembled scroll to show

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students color the picture on their scroll, then tape straws to the left and right edges. Roll the two straws in toward the center of the picture. Tie it closed with a piece of ribbon. Put a piece of tape over the ribbon on the back of the scroll to keep it in place.

Show assembled scroll. Today we are going to make scrolls of our own! Long ago, God's laws were written on scrolls. Now we have God's Word, the Bible. We don't use scrolls anymore. But today we are going to make

one. This scroll has a picture of a child praying. I want you to color the picture, and then we'll help you make it into a scroll. You can take it home and show your family.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? What were God's laws written on in Ezra's time? *Show assembled scroll. Scrolls.*

That's right. And when you open up your scroll like this . . . *Open scroll example.*

? What do you see inside? *A child praying.*

Yes. When you see your scroll, remember that God wants us to learn His Word and pray to Him, just like Ezra and the people did. God used Ezra in a special way to teach the people so they would know how to obey God. We need to learn from God's Word, too, so we will know how to obey and love God.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

We're going to practice our new memory verse. Let's say it together first. Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Point to each picture as you say each word and have the students repeat.

Good job! Now we're going to play "Echo." First, I'll divide you into teams. Divide the entire class (including teachers) into two or three teams. You can do boys, girls, and teachers to start and then mix it up by age, by hair color, what colors they are wearing, are they the oldest or youngest in the family, etc.

We're going to take turns echoing the words of the memory verse. The first team will say a phrase and touch their toes as

they say it. Then the second team will echo the same phrase and do the same thing. Then Team Three gets to do it. We will just be repeating each other so we can learn the verse! Are you ready?

Assign one team to start by saying the first phrase of the memory verse. As each team speaks, have them sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch their toes, etc. Something to get them moving. Team Two will echo. Then Team Three will echo again. Continue several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Change it up. This will help them learn.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Isn't that a wonderful verse? It tells us who God is and what He did! The Lord is the only true God. And we should worship God alone because He is our Creator. He made the heavens, the earth, the seas, and everything in them, including you and me!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Lesson Flip Chart Page.

Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart Page. After 70 years, God's people could finally start moving back home. First, God led Zerubbabel. God led him to rebuild the Temple. Then God led Ezra. Ezra loved God's Word. He taught God's Word to the people in Jerusalem at the Temple.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Remember, Ezra was so sad to hear how the people had sinned. He fell on his knees and wept before the Lord. When the people saw Ezra and heard what he was praying, they understood that they had sinned against a holy God. They wept and cried too because they were sorry. Then Ezra taught the people how to obey God through His Word.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Ezra taught the people God's laws so they would know God better and learn how to obey God. God has given us His Word, the Bible, so we can learn all about Him, too. The Bible teaches us what it means to love and obey God. It tells us that God loved us and gave His Son, Jesus, to die for our sin. When we disobey God, it is sin. All who love Jesus, trust Him, turn away from their sins, and believe what the Bible says about Him can be forgiven.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word.
- Praise God for Jesus who offers forgiveness of sins.
- Pray that God will give your students hearts to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

NEHEMIAH 9:6

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout, "Nehemiah 9:6!"

You alo-one,

(Are you sleeping?)

Are the Lo-ord;

(Are you sleeping?)

You-have-made heav'n,

(Brother John,)

The heav'n of heavens,

(Brother John.)

With a-all their-eir ho-ost,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The earth and ev'rything on it,

(Morning bells are ringing.)

The-seas and all—

(Ding, ding, dong,)

That-is in them.

(Ding, ding, dong,)

CLEAN MY HEART

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

In my heart, what does God see?

(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

Is He the one I want to please?

(For the Bible tells me so.)

Or does my heart need help, Oh Lord?

(Little ones to Him belong.)

Clean out the sin and make it yours!

(They are weak, but He is strong!)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me.)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me.)

Yes, I need Jesus!

(Yes, Jesus loves me.)

Please, clean my heart today!

(The Bible tells me so!)

Think of fun ways to sing. For example, get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.