NOV
15

3RD - 5TH

18.2
Ezra Taught
God's Law

CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids:

What are some games or activities where the instructions are important?
How would these games or activities be different if there were no instructions?

THE BOOKS OF THE LAW

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into two teams and provide each team with a set of 10 cards. At the end of the room opposite the teams, place a Bible for each team. Challenge groups to match the cards to determine the Bible book name. Then teams will race to their Bible and place the matched cards at the correct book in the Bible. The first team to complete the challenge correctly wins.

Great job completing the challenge! Each of the five books you matched and found in the Bible are part of the Law division of the Old Testament. The Law was written by Moses. Today, we'll see that a man named Ezra was a scribe and a priest, and he knew the Law of Moses. We'll learn that Ezra returned to Jerusalem and faithfully taught God's law to His people.

START BY 9:30/10:55 REVIEW 3 BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW **LARGE GROUP**

SMALL GROUP

BIBLE REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Ezra 10. **Ezra is in the History section of the Old Testament. Ezra and Nehemiah were originally written as one book but were later divided into two books.**

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ezra 10:1 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

Why did the people cry after hearing God's Word? They realized they had sinned against God and felt sorry for disobeying Him.

What does it mean to truly repent of our sin? Repenting means turning away from our sin and turning to Jesus, asking Him to forgive us and help us obey Him.

How can we have forgiveness and eternal joy even though we are sinners? When we repent and put our faith in Jesus, He forgives our sins because He died and rose again to save us.



DISCUSSION

Why do we read and study the Bible? The Bible is the way God communicates with us. It is His Word. The Bible is the story of God's plan to save people through Jesus. As we read the Bible, we come to know God, our sin, and how we can be saved. Like Ezra, we must decide in our hearts to study and obey God's Word so God can use it to help make us like Jesus and share the good news with others. (Option: Read 2 Timothy 3:16)

When God shows us sin in our lives through His Word, what should be our response? It's easy to become embarrassed or even angry when we feel convicted of our sin, but the best response to sin and disobedience to God is grief and repentance. When we are brokenhearted over our sin, we recognize how we have dishonored God. Through our conviction, we see our need for Jesus, who alone can save us from sin. (Option: Read Psalm 51:1-3)

Why was it important for the Levites to help the people understand God's law? The Levites wanted everyone to understand how to follow God and live in a way that pleased Him. We also need to understand God's Word, first for salvation, and then for growing in obedience to it. The Church provides an opportunity for the Bible to be taught and explained. (Option: Read Colossians 3:16)



READ, REMEMBER, AND RESPOND

On a dry erase board, write down 20–30 different words or phrases, such as faith, pray, trust, repent, Jesus loves you, etc. Provide each kid with a piece of a paper and a pen. Allow kids 30 seconds to read the words. Then hide the board and challenge kids to write down as many words as they can remember in one minute. Repeat for a second time. Invite kids to share how many words they wrote down, seeing who wrote the most words. As an added challenge, encourage kids to respond to the words by answering the question, "What is one word or phrase that stood out to you, and why?"

Ezra returned to Jerusalem and faithfully taught God's law to His people. Ezra read the law of God from dawn until noon, desiring that the people know and understand God's words. God desires that we read, remember, and respond to His words. Through faith in Jesus, our hearts are changed so we can obey God's Word and glorify Him.



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.
Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.