NOV

15

EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW

Ezra

Ezra was a scribe and a priest, and he knew the law of Moses. He had committed to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach it to all God's people.

King Artaxerxes wrote a letter that said, "Any of God's people who want to go back to Jerusalem with Ezra may go. Make sure to bring all the silver and the gold that I and others have given to the God of Israel. And if you need anything else for the house of God, you may use the royal treasury to pay for it." **Ezra praised God, thanking Him for the kindness and generosity of the king.** God was with Ezra and strengthened him for the journey to Jerusalem.

After Ezra returned to Jerusalem, he met with some leaders of the people. Ezra learned that some of the people and their leaders had disobeyed God because they did not separate themselves from the surrounding nations and their wicked practices. **Ezra** tore his clothes and **was very upset. Ezra** got on his knees and **prayed to God, confessing the people's sin.** As he did this, **God's people began to gather around Ezra. They cried and confessed their sin too, promising to be faithful to God.**

Then Ezra brought the book of the law of Moses and read it before all who could listen with understanding. He read the law from dawn until noon. **All the people listened very carefully** and lifted their hands and said, "Amen, Amen!" **Then they knelt and worshiped God** with their faces to the ground.

Then, Levites came to the people and began to explain the law so the people could better understand what was read. The people began to cry as they heard the words of the law, **because they realized they had not been obeying God.**

Nehemiah and Ezra said, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. **Do not be sad!** Go and eat good food and drink what is sweet, **because today is holy. The joy of the Lord is your strength."**

Then all the people had a great celebration with food and drinks **because they understood the words of the law that Ezra taught them.**