NOV
15

# K - 2ND

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:

**When have you needed help understanding how to do something? Maybe you needed help with a math problem or a project.**

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**Start by 9:20/10:45**

Challenge kids to look at the group of pictures and determine what the pictures mean. Invite groups to share their answers. Then review the answers below.
1) A dog runs after a ball. 2) I see a red umbrella. 3) A girl loves ice cream. 4) A bird nests in a tree.

**Was it hard to understand what the pictures meant? Sometimes, we need help understanding what we are seeing or hearing. Today, we will see how Ezra returned to Jerusalem and faithfully taught God's law to His people. But God's people needed help understanding the law. Thankfully, those who had studied the law—the Levites—helped the people understand. Let's get ready to learn more about God's Word.**

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

# SMALL GROUP

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open their Bibles to Ezra 7. **The Book of Ezra is in the History division of the Old Testament.** Read Ezra 7:10 and have kids follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**Why should we read God's Word?** When we study the Bible, we grow closer to God and learn how He loves us, provides for us, and rescues us from sin.

**What did Ezra decide to do with God's Word?** He decided to learn it, obey it, and teach it to others.

**What can we do when we learn something from the Bible?** We can obey God and share what we learn with others!

# DISCUSSION

**How can we respond when we sin?** When we sin, we should be quick to confess our sin to God, turn away from sin, and turn to God. The Bible tells us if we confess our sins to God, He will forgive us and make us clean (1 John 1:9).

**Who helps you understand God's Word?** God places godly people in our lives to help us understand His Word, such as parents, church leaders, pastors, and even our friends. Going to church offers believers a community to study and know God's Word better. Through the church, believers can encourage each other to grow more like Jesus as they study His Word, pray together, and serve one another.

**Why did God want the people to celebrate?** God had been merciful to His people, even though they sinned against Him. He brought them back to their land and revealed their sin so they could repent and obey Him. His faithfulness was greater than their sin, and He wanted them to be happy about His goodness. God wants us to celebrate His mercy and kindness in our lives as well. While sin should grieve us, we can also rejoice in God's salvation, knowing His mercy is greater than our sin.

# PARTY BANNERS

Distribute various colors of cardstock triangles, markers, and stickers to each group. Invite kids to create a party banner. With the triangles pointing down, kids will draw designs and tape each of the words, **The joy of the Lord is our strength**, one word per triangle. Distribute yarn or string to each group. Tell kids to thread the yarn through the holes to create the banner (you may need to tape the yarn in place on the back). Tape the banners around the room. Encourage kids to celebrate God's kindness shown to us through Jesus

**While God's people were sad over the sin, Nehemiah and Ezra told them to celebrate, remembering God's mercy and the joy He provides. We also have a reason to celebrate: God made the way for our sin to be forgiven through faith in Jesus. Shout for joy, remembering God's great love for you!**

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As time allows, pass out crayons and pencils for kids to work on the activity sheet.

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.