

FAMILY FIELD GUIDE



Date: June 27th

Main Point: Discovering God's Word

Scripture: Ezra Reads the Law

GATHER

Gather your family together for a special family worship/devotional time. Remember to exercise patience and press ahead even if kids are whining or complaining. Try to get in a routine so it is not a big surprise to them and keep it fun. Find ways to include your kids in the worship time as well, so that they are participants and not spectators.

SING

Sing together to begin your time of worship. Below are links to worship songs you can watch on youtube.

Sing about having a strong foundation.

Walk in Him - Seeds Family Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLf-X966TWO>

Sing about God's Word

Breathed Out By God - Seeds Family Worship

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_ZHADlcp2M

STORY BACKGROUND

Ezra was a scribe who loved God's word. **"Ezra had committed himself to study and obey the Law of the Lord. He also wanted to teach the Lord's rules and laws in Israel."** - Ezra 7:10 (NIRV) When the exiles returned from the land of Babylon/Persia, Zerubbabel was the leader who helped the people restore the Temple, Nehemiah led the people to restore the walls of Jerusalem and Ezra led the way in restoring God's law (Torah) to the life of God's people. Today's story takes place right after the walls of the city had been rebuilt. After this incredible event, the people gathered together for a special time of worship. Ezra and other teachers spent the day reading, teaching and explaining God's word to the people. This was the first time God's word had been read together with all the people after the exile. Read Nehemiah 8:1-12 to hear the story of how the people discovered God's word again after their time in Exile.

READ & DISCUSS - Nehemiah 8:1-12

Read the Scripture together as a family. If you have older kids, have them read the story.

Read Nehemiah 8:1-12

What did Ezra stand on when he read God's Word? What different age groups were there in Jerusalem to hear God's Word read?

How did the people feel after God's word was read to them? How did Nehemiah want them to feel?

WATCH

Watch today's Bible story video **"Ezra reads the Law"** on the Central App or on the Kids page of the Central website.

DEVOTIONAL

When we read the Bible, it is powerful! This is because God's word is alive (Heb 4:12). And while reading the Bible can cause us to feel sad sometimes because it tells us about our sin, it can also make us feel joyful because we can see how great God's faithful love is for us. In today's story, we learned how important reading and understanding the Bible is in our lives. Without this important practice, we get lost and wander away from God and his ways. We should praise God that not only do we have Bibles of our own to read, but we can get together with our church family and have it read and explained to us by teachers and leaders. When we spend time discovering God's word, it helps us understand who Jesus is, what he has done for us and what joy he has come to bring us. (Neh 8:10; John 10:10)

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Talk together about how God's word both makes us feel sad and joyful. It both corrects us (2 Tim 3:16-17) and comforts us (Rom 15:4). Share with your kids about a time in your life where God's word comforted or corrected you.

PRAY

Discuss some areas of life where you need God's help to obey his word. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you obey God's word with a cheerful heart today.