



Grades 4–5 • Unit 12 • Lesson 115

# Ezra Teaches the Law

Deuteronomy 7:3–4; Ezra 7:6–10, 8:31, 9:1–3, 9:5–6, 10:1–3, 10:10–11; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Fill in the missing word from each statement in the crossword puzzle. Use the word bank and the verse references for help.

## WORD BANK:

Artaxerxes, Enemies, Hair, Jerusalem, Marrying, Prayed, Scribe, Separated, Teach, Wept

## ACROSS

2. Ezra \_\_\_ and confessed the sin of the people.  
Ezra 10:1

5. Ezra led a group of Jews from  
Babylon to the city of \_\_\_. Ezra 7:7

7. Ezra showed his grief over their  
sin by tearing his clothes and  
pulling out his \_\_\_. Ezra 9:3

9. God protected Ezra and other exiles from \_\_\_  
and ambushes on their journey. Ezra 8:31

10. Ezra set his heart to study, obey, and \_\_\_  
the law of the Lord. Ezra 7:10

## DOWN

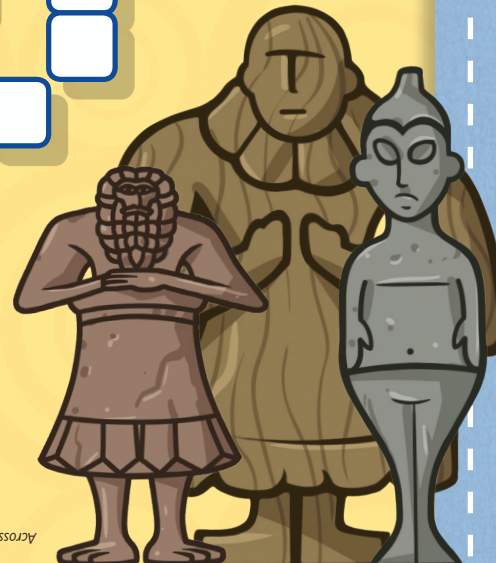
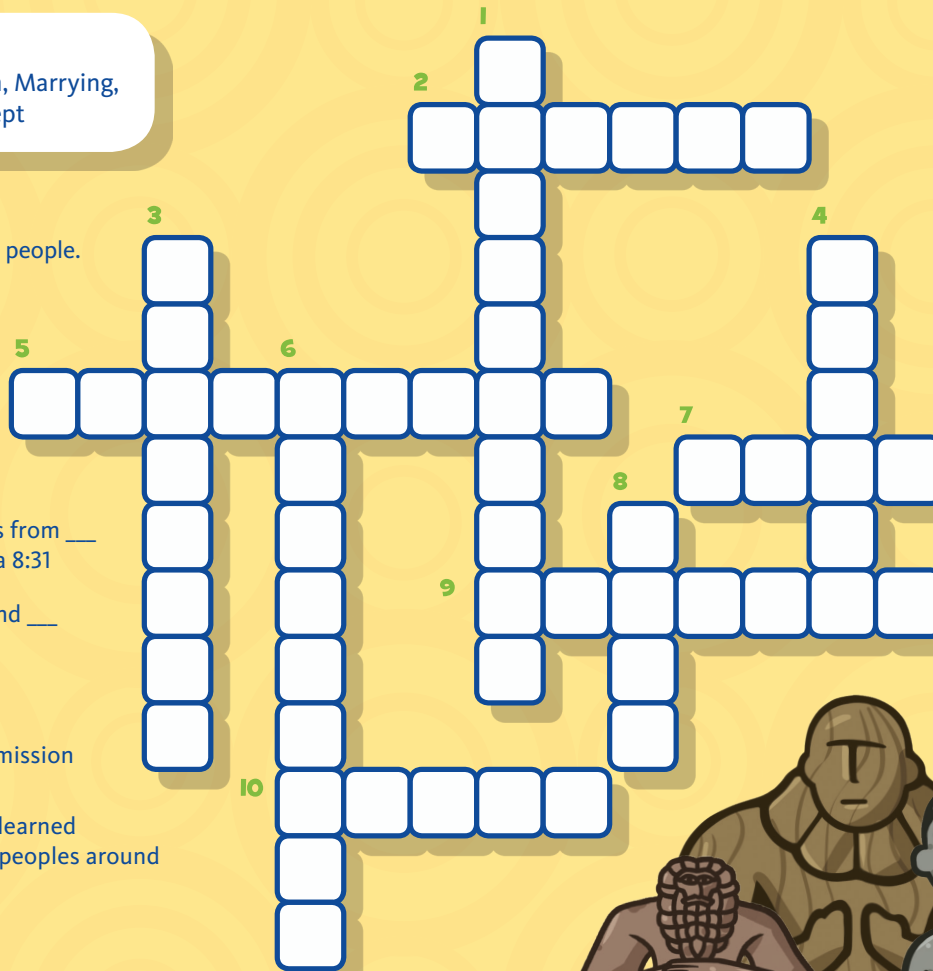
1. King \_\_\_ of Persia gave the Jews permission  
to return to Judah. Ezra 7:1

3. When Ezra arrived in Jerusalem, he learned  
that the Jews had sinned by \_\_\_ the peoples around  
them. Ezra 9:1–2

4. Ezra was a priest and a \_\_\_. Ezra 7:6

6. The people confessed their sin and \_\_\_ themselves from  
their foreign wives. Ezra 10:10–11

8. All the people \_\_\_ because they were sorry for their sin. Ezra 10:1



Across: 2) enemies, 5) Jerusalem, 7) hair, 9) enemies, 10) teach; Down: 1) Artaxerxes, 3) marrying, 4) scribe, 6) separated, 8) wept

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Memory Verse

How well do you know the memory  
verse? See if you can fill in the blanks.  
The first letter of the missing words  
are there to get you started.

And after you have

s \_\_\_\_\_ a little

while, the God of all

g \_\_\_\_\_, who has called

you to his e \_\_\_\_\_

glory in C \_\_\_\_\_, will

himself r \_\_\_\_\_,

confirm, s \_\_\_\_\_,

and establish you.

I Peter 5:10





## What You Heard *In the Word*

- God used the scribe and priest Ezra to lead the second group of Jews from Persia back to Jerusalem.
- Ezra learned that the people in Jerusalem had disobeyed God and married foreign women. Greatly grieved, Ezra cried out to God. The people were convicted of their sins and repented when Ezra taught them God's law.



## OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose you heard someone say that the Israelites were much more wicked than we are today because of their idolatry. **What could you say?**

*The Israelites were wicked. But we are just like the Israelites. We are all sinners who turn away from God. We make things more important than God sometimes, and we disobey him. Our sins of pride and selfishness may look different from the idol worship in the Bible, but anything we put before God is an idol—and it is all wicked in God's sight! But God promises forgiveness and eternal life to us through his Word. That promise comes through Jesus and is available to everyone who is willing to repent and turn away from sin, believe in the Jesus of the Bible, and worship him alone.*



## HomeWord *For Parents*

The Jews had been captives in Babylon for 70 years, but God had promised they would return to their land. God used King Cyrus of Persia to send the first wave of Jewish captives back to Judah under the leadership of Zerubbabel. And the people began to rebuild the temple. But there were still Jews in the land of Babylon, which was known as Persia during this time.

God again moved in the heart of a pagan king, King Artaxerxes of Persia, to allow the godly priest and scribe Ezra to lead a second group of Jews back to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:6).

It wasn't long after his return that Ezra realized the people of Israel and the priests had sinned against God by marrying foreigners (Ezra 9:1–2). Ezra was grieved and appalled by this sin. He fell on his knees, acknowledged the sins of the people, and cried out to the Lord (Ezra 9:3–15). This sin—the intermarrying of the Jewish people with pagans—led the Jews to turn away from the one true God and to worship false gods.

Ezra prayed, and the people wept bitterly. They were convicted of their sin. One man, Shecaniah, spoke up on behalf of the people. He knew that if they repented and turned back to God's law, they could be restored to a right relationship with God (Ezra 10:3–4). The people sought forgiveness, made arrangements to begin purifying Israel, and sent away the foreign wives (Ezra 10:9–12).

What brought about the change in the people of Israel? The law of God, which had been neglected prior to Ezra's return. Ezra honored God with his commitment to teach the truth to the people. God's truth moved the people to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). You have that same opportunity. Proclaiming the truths of God's Word will change lives—bringing unbelievers to repentance and believers into a richer relationship with Jesus.

