



## Lesson 113 – Zerubbabel Returns to Israel Devotions for Week of September 28, 2025

Children's Ministry has prepared a five-day, weekly devotion to reinforce the Bible lesson covered on Sunday. We're here to come alongside you as you train up your child in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Please contact us or go to the Children's Ministry app for added support or resources. We love you and are here for you and your children.

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### Unit Memory Verses

**1 Peter 5:10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

**Jeremiah 33:7-8** I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against Me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against Me.

### Day 1

**Read:** Ezra 1

God is sovereign, which means that God is in control. The Jews were taken captive and brought to a new country, the country of Babylon, because they continued to worship idols and did not follow God. God told the prophets that the Jews would be in captivity for 70 years as a punishment. The people began to build homes, get new jobs, make friends and settle into the new country of Babylon. Now, 70 years have come, and God's prophecy and His Word will happen. Sure enough, God put it on King Cyrus to send the Jews back to their land and rebuild their temple. The king commanded his people to give them money and silver and gold so they could build the temple. He even returned the items that were stolen by King Nebuchadnezzar from the temple. This is a historical and true event. God keeps His Word and God is ultimately in control of all things - even a king's heart. God can speak to leaders and to kings to show them what He wants to do in a nation. He can speak to even leaders like our parents, teachers and coaches to make His will happen. Maybe your coach doesn't let you play in a game, or maybe you feel your teacher is unfair to you. You can pray for your leaders' hearts to

follow and obey God and for God's will to happen in your life. But know that it is God's will, not your will, then it will happen. It is good to pray for your heart too. Pray that your heart would not have sin or pride in it. And pray that God would help you submit and obey your leaders even if you don't agree with some of their decisions. This is pleasing to God, and it can bring us peace to know that God sees everything, He is in control, and that He loves us.

**Discussion:** Do you trust and know that God is in control? Do you trust that God's ways are better, and He knows what is best for your life? Do you submit and obey your leaders even when they don't do what you want? Talk about it.

**Pray:** Pray for your leaders. Pray for the leaders in our country and in your life like your parents, teachers, and coaches. Pray that God would help you follow and obey Him no matter what. Thank God.

### Day 2

**Read:** Ezra 3

When the people returned to Israel, the first thing they did was worship God. They wanted to rebuild the temple, but even before it was rebuilt, they started the morning and evening sacrifices and offerings and continued to do them every day. Verse 3 says that they were fearful because there were people that did not want them to worship God. When the Jews were taken captive out of the land of Israel 70 years ago, King Nebuchadnezzar sent people from his country to live in Israel. They were from Babylon, and they did not worship God. They were still living there when the Jews returned. However, the Jews still set their minds to rebuild the temple and worship God. They had learned their lesson from 70 years ago when they were worshiping idols and not God. They knew that God is the real all-powerful God, and He alone should be worshiped. The Jews may have been afraid of the people living there, but that did not stop them. Many times, we can be fearful of people and peer pressure, but we should not let it stop us. Just like God was with His people, you are His, and He is with you too. When we decide to put God first in our lives and worship Him, the enemy does not like that so he will attack. When we make that decision to put God first, God DOES like that, and He will come to our rescue and help us. God is way bigger and stronger than any enemy we have.

**Discussion:** Have you made that decision to put God first in your life and to worship Him every day? Has there been some opposition? Are you still determined, or do you give up?

**Pray:** Pray and thank God for His power and how He is with you always. Tell God you love Him and want to worship Him and put Him first in your life. Praise God.

### Day 3

**Read:** Ezra 6

God is still and always is in control of all things. Even though there was opposition for the Jews when they came back to their land, God wanted them back in the land, and He wanted the temple to be rebuilt. He put it on another king's heart, King Darius, to command the people to rebuild the temple. The people that were against the Jews had to help build the temple, because they had a commandment or order from the king to do it. Finally, the temple was complete, and the people worshiped with many offerings and a great celebration. They celebrated for 7 days! Would you like to have a party for 7 days and praise and worship God? God is so worthy of our praise! We can worship Him every day. Maybe take a whole day and set it aside to worship Him all day long. What are some things we could do to worship God? We can sing praises to Him from our heart. We can do things for others as worship to God. We can serve Him at our church like maybe help clean the church. I love verse 22. It says they worshipped with joy. When we worship God, it should not be that we have to but that we get to, and when we worship with joy in our hearts, it pleases God and brings Him joy too. What a wonderful blessing!

**Discussion:** Talk about ways that you can worship God. Is there a day that you and your family want to set aside to only worship God? We can do this every Sunday by going to church and then after church worshipping and resting with God.

**Pray:** Praise and thank God for who He is. Tell Him you love Him. Praise God for all things He does and for who He is.

### Day 4

**Read:** Matthew 8:23-27

This Bible reading is a New Testament reminder of how God is in control. Jesus and the disciples got in a boat and a great storm came upon them in the boat. The boat was covered with waves. That sounds super scary, doesn't it? Think about what it would be like to be in a boat on the water in a storm and the storm is so big it is covering you and the boat with waves! Despite all of this, Jesus was sound asleep. He was perfectly calm and not worried or scared at all. Jesus had a plan for them to get to the other side in the boat. He knew God is in control and that what God wants will happen. They will get to the other side of the land because that is what God wants to happen. The disciples did not trust God as much. It says they were

fearful and did not have faith. They ran to Jesus and woke Him up. We can always go to God and cry out to Him when we are afraid. Jesus heard them, and because He is all-powerful, even of creation, He told the storm and the winds to stop. And they did! This is amazing! Only God can do that. Do you know that sometimes there will be "storms" in your life? Bad and scary things will happen all around you and you will be afraid, but what can we learn from the Bible today? Jesus is with us; He will help us, and He is all-powerful, and He is in control and sovereign. Let's remember these truths and believe them.

**Discussion:** Talk about a storm that is in your life or a "storm" that you are afraid of. What will you remember when the storms come?

**Pray:** Thank God for who He is. Praise Him for being with you always. Ask God to help you have faith and trust Him.

### Day 5

**Read:** Revelation 7:9-12

This is a picture of heaven in the future. God showed John this vision. What do you see? The Bible promises that in the future, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is God. This is a vision of many people, from all countries and nations and tribes, standing before the throne of God. They are wearing white robes. The white robes speak of us being pure and clean from all sin. They have palm branches in their hands. These remind us of when Jesus was on earth riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people were waving palm branches and saying Hosanna, which means save us now. Here all the people are worshiping and praising God. Even all the angels and all of heaven are joining in this worship. The words that they are saying can be a prayer of worship for us today. We should acknowledge that salvation is from God, and He is the one who has saved us from our sins. He deserves all blessings and glory. He has all wisdom; it comes from Him. We should be thankful to God and give Him honor, for He is all-powerful and mighty. God is our God forever and ever. Amen means "so be it" or we all agree. If you believe in Jesus and have Him in your heart and life, you will be a part of this future scene. You are in heaven praising and worshipping God! We can do it now while we are here on this earth too. God deserves it, so let's praise Him!

**Discussion:** What are your thoughts about this vision of heaven? How would you describe it? Close your eyes and picture yourself there.

**Pray:** Thank and praise God for who He is. Pray the prayer of praise in verses 10 and 12 from your heart. Praise God in your own words.