



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 18 • Session 3

## EZRA READ THE LAW

Ezra 7-10; Nehemiah 8

**HOW SHOULD WE FEEL WHEN WE SIN?  
WHEN WE SIN, WE SHOULD FEEL SORRY THAT WE HAVE DISOBEYED GOD AND  
WANT TO TURN FROM OUR SIN BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM.**

The walls around Jerusalem were finished. Ezra, a priest and scribe, wanted to study God's law, obey it, and teach it to God's people. He learned that some of the people and their leaders had disobeyed God, ignoring His Word. Ezra got on his knees and prayed to God, confessing the people's sin. God's people began to gather around him. They cried too and offered sacrifices, promising to be faithful to God.

Several years later, the people in Jerusalem gathered together early in the morning at one of Jerusalem's gates. Men, women, and children came to listen to the reading of God's Word. Ezra brought out the book of the law of Moses that God had given to His people. Ezra stood on a high wooden platform and began to read.

Ezra read the law for hours, and all the people listened carefully. They had respect for God's Word. Ezra praised God. The people in the crowd bowed down, and they worshiped God.

The Levites explained the law to the people and helped them understand the words Ezra read. As the people heard the words of the law, they began to cry. They realized they had sinned. Ezra, the Levites, and Nehemiah the governor said, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad or cry."

Ezra said to them, "Go home and prepare a feast!"

The people obeyed Ezra. They were glad because they understood the words of the law that were explained to them.

**Christ Connection:** God's Word is powerful. When Ezra read God's Word, the people loved God more and changed their ways. The Bible says that Jesus is "the Word." Jesus is God who came to live with people on earth. Jesus has the power to change our hearts.

FOLD

**Letter Maze** | Trace each letter's line and write the letter in the box where the line ends to uncover what Ezra did.

- |         |   |   |       |       |
|---------|---|---|-------|-------|
| death   | → | • | _____ | efil  |
| sadness | → | • | _____ | oyj   |
| anxiety | → | • | _____ | epace |
| despair | → | • | _____ | peoh  |
| chaos   | → | • | _____ | rodre |



**Jesus Changes Our Hearts** | Unscramble the words on the right side of the page by using the opposite words on the left side of the page as clues. Has Jesus changed your heart? If so, draw a picture showing how.