



Family Worship Guide: Lesson 26

Postexilic History

Main Idea

God fulfilled His promise by bringing the Jewish captives out of exile and back to their land.

Ezra and Nehemiah led efforts to rebuild the temple and restore the hearts of the people, while

Esther helped thwart a plan to exterminate the Jews. They showed that the reformation of

God's church and His people must be pursued continually.

Scripture Readings

✠ *Ezra 1:1–3*

✠ *Ezra 7:10*

✠ *Nehemiah 2:17–18*

✠ *Nehemiah 9:1–3*

✠ *Esther 4:13–14*

✠ *Esther 9:20–22*

Lesson Review

Q Who allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem after the exile? (Ezra 1:1-3)

A *King Cyrus of Persia allowed them to return.*

Q What three things had Ezra set his heart to do? (Ezra 7:10)

A *To study the Law of the LORD, to do it, and to teach it to the people.*

Q What work did Nehemiah lead the people to do in Jerusalem? (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

A *He led them to rebuild the walls of the city.*



Family Worship Guide: Lesson 26

Postexilic History

Q What did the people do when they heard God's Word read to them? (Nehemiah 9:1-3)

A *They confessed their sins and repented.*

Q Why did God bring His people back from exile and protect them from their enemies? (Ezra 1:1-3; Esther 4:13-14)

A *Because God was keeping His promises and preserving His people until the promised Savior, Jesus Christ, would come.*

Baptist Catechism (1693)

Q 52 - What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A *The first commandment forbiddeth the denying (Psa 14:1), or not worshipping and glorifying, the true God (Rom 1:21) as God and our God (Psa 81:10-11), and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due unto Him alone (Rom 1:25-26).*

Q 53 - What are we especially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?

A *These words before me in the first commandment teach us that God, Who seeth all things, taketh notice of and is much displeased with the sin of having any other god (Exo 8:5 to the end)."*

Family Devotion Questions

Q How did Queen Esther help the Jews during exile?

Family Worship Guide: Lesson 26

Postexilic History

A *God raised up Esther to identify with His people and intercede before the king so they would not be destroyed, pointing us to Jesus Christ, who stands before God as the true Mediator for His people.*

Q **How were the Jews able to return to Jerusalem?**

A *God stirred the heart of King Cyrus to let His people return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.*

Q **What work had to be done in Jerusalem?**

A *The temple had to be rebuilt, the walls of the city had to be repaired, and the people needed to return to faithful worship of God.*

Q **What work had to be done in the people's hearts?**

A *They needed to repent of their idolatry and disobedience that had led to the exile and renew their commitment to obey God's law.*

Q **How did Ezra and Nehemiah help lead the Jews back to God?**

A *Ezra taught God's Word and led spiritual reform, and Nehemiah led the rebuilding of Jerusalem and encouraged the people to repent and obey the Lord.*

Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

We thank You for faithfully preserving Your people and keeping Your promises. Thank You for raising up Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther to help and protect Your people, and for preserving the line through which Jesus Christ came.



Family Worship Guide: Lesson 26

Postexilic History

Forgive us for our sins, especially our idolatry and disobedience. Give us humble hearts that turn from sin and love Your Word.

Help us repent and believe the good news of Jesus Christ, our true Mediator, who saves His people. Teach us to trust Him, obey Your Word, and live for Your glory.