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CONVERSATION

The People Listened to the Law

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Through this Bible story your preteen discovered that the Bible helps people know more about God. When the people returned from Babylon, they listened to Ezra read the Scriptures, and they began to follow God.



LIVE IT OUT

Review the Bible story and explain that many people who listened to Ezra read the Scriptures had not heard them in a long time. Some of the people had never heard God's Word. Emphasize the importance of reading Scripture to learn about God.



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.



DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: Psalm 40:5 Monday: 1 John 1:5 Tuesday: Psalm 18:30 Wednesday: Micah 7:18 Thursday: 1 Samuel 2:2 Friday: Psalm 50:6 Saturday: Job 42:2

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

All the Israelite people gathered together, including the men, women, and older children. They asked the scribe, Ezra, to bring the book of the Law that God had given Moses for Israel.

Ezra stood on a high platform. As he opened the book, the people stood up. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands to God and said, "Amen, Amen!" Then the people knelt low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.



Ezra read the words of the book where everyone could see him. He read from the first light of day until noon. The Levites explained the law to the people so that everyone could understand.

As the people heard and understood the meaning, they were sad and began to cry. Nehemiah, the governor, Ezra, the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were teaching the people told them, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad or cry. Go and eat good food, drink what is sweet, and share with those who have nothing. The joy of the Lord is your strength."

The people obeyed. They ate, drank, and shared in a great celebration because they understood the words the Levites explained to them.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 40:5

LIFE POINT: The Bible helps people know more about God.