

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 7, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Ezra 1; 3

BIBLE VERSE:

Ezra 3:11a

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God's people returned to their home.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God keeps His promises. (YK)

God kept His promise to bring His people back to their homeland. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Proverbs 1:7-19

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 1:7

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Proverbs 3:27-35*

MONDAY: *Proverbs 4:1-19*

TUESDAY: *Proverbs 4:20-27*

WEDNESDAY: *Proverbs 5:1-14*

THURSDAY: *Proverbs 5:15-23*

FRIDAY: *Proverbs 6:1-11*

SATURDAY: *Proverbs 6:12-19*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Ezra* and *Proverbs* together as a family:



- **Follow God.** Early in his kingship, Solomon commanded the Israelites to faithfully follow God. If the people were not obedient to God's laws, eventually God would send judgment. Though many prophets in Israel's history echoed the words of Solomon, Israel did not listen and eventually they were taken into captivity. Had Israel listened to Solomon, or the myriad of other prophets, perhaps they could have stayed in their homeland.
- **Return from the exile.** Ezra was a priest for the people in captivity in Babylon. King Cyrus of Persia, ruler over the Israelites living in Babylon, eventually allowed the people to return to Jerusalem. For 70 years the people had been out of their homeland but upon Cyrus' decree, many then gathered their belongings and various gifts from the people of Babylon and returned to Jerusalem. Led by Zerubbabel, more than 40,000 people made the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem.
- **Worship restored.** One of the things Nebuchadnezzar had done when he invaded Israel and exiled the inhabitants to Babylon was to plunder and burn the temple. The items of gold and silver that had been in the temple were taken back to Babylon. When Cyrus ordered the people to return, he also sent back the items Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple so the people could begin worshiping God once their temple was rebuilt. A few months after arriving in Jerusalem, the foundations of the temple were laid and worship had begun again.
- **The way of wisdom.** While the temple foundations that were laid were a great start for the people, many of the older generation recognized that this temple would not be as glorious as the one Solomon had built. Solomon wrote much of the Book of Proverbs. These short sayings are easy to remember and Israel would have been served greatly to heed them. Solomon declared that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Solomon foresaw that Israel's demise may come when they stopped listening to godly wisdom.