



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

January 12, 2012

What We're Learning This Week

“THE CAPTIVES COMES HOME”

EZRA 1-3

Zerubbabel led God's people back to the temple to rebuild it. The temple was the place where God met with His people on earth. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people. One day Jesus will return to restore a greater home for all of God's people, and we will spend eternity with Him.

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, where we discussed that Jesus's birth fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy and He was born to graciously die for our sins so that we could have eternal life [here](#).
- Read through Ezra 1-3. Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you + for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week.

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. Throughout these passages, it is clear that God is a God who keeps His promises. The people in exile had to obediently wait 70 years to return home to
 - Were there other times in the Bible when God followed through with His promises to His people? What are some examples of this?
 - Are there things that God has promised us as we grow in our patience and obedience? Has Jesus made promises to us? Will He keep these promises? What does that tell us about who He is?

2. When the exiled people were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, some of them became sad because they remembered what the temple had looked like before but God fulfilled a new promise and allowed them to build a new temple where they could be close to them.
 - Did God care about the appearance of the temple or was the purpose of the temple to be near God's presence? Does God care about appearances or material things?
 - The people rejoice over and praise God for the rebuilt temple. When is a time that you were praised God for a gift that he gave you? Do we rejoice over the gift of Jesus that God has given us?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Spend time this week being silent in prayer, seeking to trust God's promises, knowing that He hears your prayers.
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed.
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED "HOPE IN EXILE") IS 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 16-18.

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*
 - "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:
 - "Pray constantly, give thanks in everything."

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply

know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God's Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What's Coming Up?

- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#)
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word "Kids" to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well.