



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

February 16, 2020

What We're Learning This Week

“GOD’S PEOPLE REPENTED” NEHEMIAH 8 - 13

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.

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 Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem to protect them from their enemies. Jesus came to protect us from our greatest enemy, sin and death. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who trusts in Him.
- Read through Nehemiah 8 - 13. 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. Ezra is known as a good teacher and he knows the Word of God very well. He read the law for hour for the people in Jerusalem. The bible is the Word of God and we are instructed to read it in order to know the character of God.
 - Ezra is a good teacher and Jesus is said to be the Ultimate Teacher. What is one lesson that Jesus taught in the bible?
 - God's people in Jerusalem view the reading of the Word as a form of worship. Worship does not always have to be singing songs to Jesus. What are some other ways we can worship God? How does God feel when we worship Him?

2. God's Word is powerful. The law reveals our sin and how short we fall of meeting God's standard. As humans, we fall short of God's standard and we need a Savior. God sent Jesus to live a perfect life and die for our sins.
 - Repentance is a way to confess our sins and to grow closer to the heart of Jesus. Why are God's people repenting in this passage? Why is it important to repent?
 - We trust Jesus with our salvation because we could never earn it ourselves. Does Jesus require anything from us in order to be forgiven for our sins?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Spend time this week being focusing on God's presence, 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 "THE PEOPLE RESTORED") IS 1 PETER 5:10.

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*
 - "After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." 1 Peter 5:10
- For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:
 - "After you have suffered a little while, ... God ... will himself restore ... you." 1 Peter 5:10

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.