



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

February 2, 2020

What We're Learning This Week

“ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE” ESTHER

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.

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 in Esther that God was in control over Haman's evil plan to destroy the Jews. Like Haman, Satan wants to ruin God's plan and destroy believers. Satan thought he had won when Jesus died on the cross, but God raised Jesus from the dead and defeated Satan once and for all. All who believe in Jesus are rescued from sin and death.
- Read through Nehemiah 1-6. 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. The people who had returned to Jerusalem began to doubt whether the walls would ever get rebuilt. Then Nehemiah was sent to remind them that God was in control and that he will control all things for good.
 - The walls were rebuilt once the people of Jerusalem gained trust in God and lost fear of the things of this world that were stopping them. We are to trust that God is in control of everything on earth. What are things that we can trust that God is in control of? Does God promise that He will work all things for good?

- God's people in Jerusalem began to face opposition from their enemies. They were afraid. Nehemiah reminded them that God will fight for them and He is on their side. What does God tell us in the bible about fear? Was Jesus afraid when he faced his enemies on the cross?
2. 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 in the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who trusts in Him.
- Just as Nehemiah rebuilt the walls to protect his people, Jesus rebuilt us through the Holy Spirit when he died for our sins. What are other things we can do that Jesus says will help to protect our hearts?
 - Nehemiah was a great leader who reminded the people of Jerusalem was on their side. Jesus was the ultimate leader who led by being the perfect example to His disciples and pointing them straight to the goodness and forgiveness of God for those who ask for it. When is a time that you have been a leader and pointed others to God's goodness? What does the bible say that good qualities of a leader are?

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.