

BIBLE PASSAGE

Nehemiah 8:1-12

LIFE POINT

The Bible is unlike any other book.

CHRIST FOCUSJesus taught people to obey
God's words.**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**The stories in the Bible are true and
really happened.**SUGGESTED USE DATE:** June 18**BIBLE VERSE**God's word is forever.
Isaiah 40:8 (*Paraphrase*)"The word of our God remains
forever." Isaiah 40:8 (*CSB*)The word of our God shall stand for
ever. Isaiah 40:8 (*KJV*)"The word of our God endures
forever." Isaiah 40:8 (*NIV*)The word of our God will stand
forever. Isaiah 40:8 (*ESV*)"The word of our God stands forever."
Isaiah 40:8 (*NKJV*)**UNIT 1: LEARNING FROM THE BIBLE****Session 3: The People Heard Ezra Read the Scroll****SCHEDULE AND PROPS****Huddle Ups** (*optional; time varies*)
Supplies (*for each small group*):

- "Listen and Guess"—towel, noise makers (*such as musical instruments, a baby rattle, timer, buzzer, bell, and so on*)
- "The People Heard Ezra Read the Scroll"—crayons, coloring sheets (*1 per child*)
- "Sing and Move"—none

Countdown Video (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Welcome and Prayer** (*5 minutes*)
Props: 6 sheets of colored paper (*2 sheets of 3 different colors, such as red, blue, and green.*)**Connection Point Game**
(*10 minutes*)
Props: 26 index cards, marker, tape, 2 bags**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Bible Story** (*10 minutes*)
Props: Bible, bell (*jingle bells or desk bell*), squeaky toy, sheet of paper**Worship Song and Offering**
(*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Bible Verse**
(*5-8 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Missions**
(*5-8 minutes*)
Props: none**Real Life Connections**
(*3-5 minutes*)
Props: colored craft sticks (*1 per child; multiple colors*)**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
"That's Right"
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
"The 10 Commandments"
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and *Connect to Missions* slides; "North African Missions" missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections and *Life Point* slides

Huddle Ups (Optional)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (for each small group):
 - “Listen and Guess”—towel, noise makers (such as musical instruments, a baby rattle, timer, buzzer, bell, and so on)
 - “The People Heard Ezra Read the Scroll”—crayons, coloring sheets (1 per child)
 - “Sing and Move”—none

Huddle Up (Before the Session)

“Listen and Guess”

Prep: Display the noise makers where preschoolers can see them.

- Invite a preschooler to choose a noise maker and listen to its sound.
- Continue until preschoolers select and listen to each noise maker.
- Cover the noise makers with the towel.
- Discreetly remove one item from underneath the towel.
- Uncover the noise makers.
- Lead preschoolers to guess the missing item.
- Replace the item after children guess.
- Play several times.
- Play again, this time reach under the towel and make a noise with one of the items.
- Challenge preschoolers to guess which item they heard.
- Continue the game until preschoolers guess all of the noise makers.
- Commend preschoolers for good listening.

- Comment that today's Bible story is about a group of people who listened as someone read to them.

Huddle Up (Before or After the Session)

“The People Heard Ezra Read the Scroll”
Prep: Print this session's coloring sheet (available on the DVD-ROM).

- Explain that Ezra read God's words to the people. The people stood and listened as Ezra read.
- Distribute crayons and coloring sheets.
- Invite preschoolers to color on their pages while they wait for the session to begin.

Huddle Up (After the Session)

“Sing and Move”

Prep: none

- Review the Life Point: **The Bible is unlike any other book.**
- Comment that the Bible is special because its words are from God.
- Remind the boys and girls that Ezra stood and read God's Word to the people. The people listened and wanted to do what God said to do.
- Lead the children to walk in a circle as they sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.”

*Ezra stood and read God's Word,
Read God's Word, read God's Word.
Ezra stood and read God's Word.
I can read it, too!*

*The people listened to God's Word,
To God's Word, to God's Word.
The people listened to God's Word.
I can listen, too!*

*The people said, “We will obey!”
“We will obey,” “We will obey.”
The people said, “We will obey!”
I will obey, too!*

- Mention that the stories in the Bible are true and really happened! Jesus taught people to obey God's words.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Countdown video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “That’s Right” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Hi, everyone! Are you ready to sing with me? *(Allow for responses.)* I’m ready to sing, too! I like singing songs to God. Let’s stand and sing “That’s Right.”

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: 6 sheets of colored paper *(2 sheets of 3 different colors, such as red, blue, and green.)*

BIBLE STORY LEADER

Hi, friends! I’m glad that you came to church today. I always like seeing you and hearing Bible stories. It’s fun to come to church!

Let’s have some fun, right now. I’ll show you two sheets of paper. If the papers are the same color, shout: “Same!” If the papers are not the same color, shout: “Different!” Are you ready? *(Show two sheets*

of paper at a time, leading preschoolers to shout if the papers are the same or different. Play as your time allows.)

Wow! You’re really great at that game! Some colors were the same, and others were different.

(Show the Bible.) This is the Bible. Is the Bible the same or different than other books? *(Allow for responses.)* The Bible is different because its words are from God! Only the Bible has God’s words inside!

(Show Life Point slide.)

The Bible is unlike any other book. Say that with me: **“The Bible is unlike any other book.”**

Our Bible verse says that God’s words will last forever. Forever is a very long time! It means that God’s words are true today, and the next day, and the next day, ... and the next day! They will always be true! Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- God’s word is forever. Isaiah 40:8 *(Paraphrase)*
- “The word of our God remains forever.”
Isaiah 40:8 *(CSB)*
- The word of our God shall stand for ever.
Isaiah 40:8 *(KJV)*
- “The word of our God endures forever.”
Isaiah 40:8 *(NIV)*
- The word of our God will stand forever.
Isaiah 40:8 *(ESV)*
- “The word of our God stands forever.”
Isaiah 40:8 *(NKJV)*

The stories in the Bible are true and really happened. The Bible is always right and good. We should do what the Bible says because its words are from God. Let’s pray and thank God for the Bible.

God, thank You for the Bible. The Bible is unlike any other book! Thank You that we can read the Bible and learn from it. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 5 kids
- ➔ Props: 26 index cards, marker, tape, 2 bags

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *On separate index cards write HAND, FOOT, E, Z, R, and A.*
- *Place the letter cards in 1 bag and the hand/foot cards in a second bag.*
- *On the remaining cards write E, Z, R, A (1 letter per card). Make 5 sets.*
- *Mix the cards.*
- *Tape the cards on the floor in a large grid.*
- *Choose 5 kids.*
- *Direct attention to the cards on the floor.*
- *Lead preschoolers to identify each letter.*
- *Explain that you will pull a card from each bag and tell preschoolers to put either a hand or foot on a certain letter.*
- *Draw a card from each bag and announce the instruction. For example, say: “Put your hand on the letter A.” Lead kids to place a hand on any letter A.*
- *Return the cards to the bags, pull 2 more, and announce the instruction, such as: “Put a foot on the letter Z.”*
- *Continue the game as your time allows.*

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Let’s play a game! Who would like to play? *(Choose 5 kids.)*

There are four different letters taped on the floor. Can you help me name them? *(Point to each letter and lead preschoolers to say aloud its name.)*
Great job!

I will pull a card from each bag and tell you to put either a hand or foot on a certain letter. Let’s see who can listen and follow my instructions.

(Play the game as your time allows.)

Hmm ... let’s look at these letters again. *(Take the letter cards out of the bag and put them on the floor to spell “Ezra.”)*

These letters spell a word! *E-Z-R-A* spells the name *Ezra*. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about a man named Ezra who taught people about God. Just like our friends listened and obeyed my instructions to play the game, the people listened to Ezra and wanted to obey God’s instructions.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “The 10 Commandments” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Do you think that people should do what God says to do? *(Allow for responses.)* Yes! People should always obey God. We can know what God wants us to do by reading the Bible and hearing Bible stories. Let’s stand and sing about ten things God wants people to do—the Ten Commandments!

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus*, and *Bible Story* slides; *Bible Story Time* video *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, bell *(jingle bells or desk bell)*, squeaky toy, sheet of paper

Option 1: *Show the Bible Story Time video and conclude with a short prayer.*

God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You that we can hear Bible stories to learn about Jesus. Please help

us do the things that You want us to do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Option 2: *Tell the following Bible story. Hide the noise makers from the preschoolers' view.*

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

Are you good listeners? *(Allow for responses.)* I think that you're VERY good listeners! You always listen well when I tell Bible stories.

Let's play a listening game. I'll make a noise, and you guess what made the sound.

(Ring the bell.) Did you hear the sound? What is it? *(Allow for responses.)* Yes! *(Show the bell and ring it.)* It's a bell. Good listening! Let's play again!

(Squeak the toy.) That's a fun sound! Do you know what it is? *(Allow for responses.)* You're right! *(Show the toy and squeak it.)* It's a toy! You are very good at this game. Let's try one more.

(Crumple the paper.) Hmm. Listen carefully. This is a hard one. Can you guess? *(Allow for responses.)* Did you say paper? *(Show the paper and crumple it.)* I crumpled the paper to make a noise.

Thanks for playing my game. You're very good listeners! Are you ready to hear a Bible story? *(Allow for responses.)* Great! Today's Bible story is about people who listened to someone read God's words from a scroll.

(Open Bible to Nehemiah 8.)

All of the people came together and asked Ezra to read from a Bible scroll.

(Read Nehemiah 8:5.)

Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people As he opened it, all the people stood up.

Ezra began reading very early in the morning, and he read until the afternoon! The people listened to Ezra as he read from the Bible scroll, and they worshiped God.

Some men helped the people understand the words that they heard. The people knew that God's words were important.

A man named Nehemiah was the people's leader. Nehemiah and Ezra told the people, "Today is a special day! Let's celebrate! Eat good food and share with people who don't have any."

(Read Nehemiah 8:12.)

Then all the people began to ... have a great celebration, because they had understood [God's words].

The people were happy because they heard God's words and understood them.

(Close Bible.)

What a great Bible story! The people were so happy to listen to God's words. They heard about God and learned how to obey Him.

The words in the Bible are from God! That makes the Bible very special. The Bible teaches us about God and the things that He wants us to do.

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

Jesus taught people to obey God's words. It's good for us to hear God's words and do what He says. Jesus said that we show our love for God when we listen to Him and obey.

The Bible is unlike any other book. I'm glad that we got to read it together today! Let's pray and thank God for the Bible.

God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You that we can hear Bible stories to learn about Jesus. Please help us do the things that You want us to do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

The people listened when Ezra read God's words from the scroll. They heard the things that God

wanted them to do, and they chose to obey God. We hear God's words when we listen to Bible stories. We can hear what God wants us to do and choose to obey Him.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money that people give at church helps others hear Bible stories. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After you collect the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Teach the following motions for key words in the Bible verse:*
 - *God's word/The word—Hold open palms together to form a Bible.*
 - *forever—Hold arms out to the side and spin in a circle.*
- *Lead preschoolers to repeat the verse and do the motions several times.*
- **Leader note:** *If you do not use the paraphrase, lead preschoolers to stand straight and tall on the word remains, stand/stands, or endures.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- God's word is forever. Isaiah 40:8 (*Paraphrase*)
- "The word of our God remains forever." Isaiah 40:8 (*CSB*)
- The word of our God shall stand for ever. Isaiah 40:8 (*KJV*)
- "The word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8 (*NIV*)

- The word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8 (*ESV*)
- "The word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8 (*NKJV*)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.)

It's time to say our Bible verse! Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

This verse says that the Word of God will last forever. What is the Word of God? *(Allow for responses.)* The Word of God is the Bible! The Bible is a special Book because the words are from God. Let's learn some motions to help us remember today's verse.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; "North African Missions" missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

It is important to pray for the people who live in North Africa and the Middle East. Many of the people there do not know about Jesus. Let's watch a video to learn about the work that missionaries do in North Africa.

(Show the missions video, "North African Missions")

(Show the Connect to Missions slide.)

Church leaders and others want to help people in North Africa and the Middle East learn more about Jesus. One church started a school in North Africa. The church leaders want to teach the kids about Jesus and start new churches.

Let's pray for the missionaries who tell people in North Africa, in the Middle East, and around the world about Jesus.

God, thank You for missionaries! Thank You for sending missionaries to tell people all around the world about Jesus. We pray that many people will hear about Jesus and choose to trust Him. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: colored craft sticks (1 per child; multiple colors)

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child 1 craft stick.
- Challenge each preschooler to find someone with a craft stick that is the same color as his own.
- Next, challenge each preschooler to find a different person with the same color craft stick as his own.
- Lead each preschooler to find someone with a craft stick that is a different color than his own.
- Continue as time allows, leading preschoolers to find partners with either the same or different colored craft sticks.

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Real Life Connections slide.)

Today we heard that the Bible is different than any other book. The Bible is different because it is God's Word. *(Lead kids to respond to the following.)*

- Can you point to someone whose shirt is a different color than yours?
- Can you point to someone whose hair is a different color than yours?
- Can you point to someone whose shoes are a different color than yours?

Great job! You found things that are different! Why is the Bible different from other books? *(Allow for*

responses.) The Bible is special because its words are from God! Let's play a game to find colors that are the same and different.

(Lead the activity.)

Great job! You found colors that were the same and different. Is the Bible the same or different than other books? *(Allow for responses.)* The Bible is different! The Bible is special because the words in the Bible are from God.

(Show Life Point Slide.)

The Bible is unlike any other book. Say that with me: **"The Bible is unlike any other book."**

You were very good listeners today! I'm glad you came to church and heard a Bible story. You heard God's words! Come again next time, and we will hear another Bible story!

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the after-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*