

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 5 • Unit 2 • Week 3

### WE LEARN ABOUT GOD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

#### OBJECTIVE:

Today we will use Bible study aids to learn more about God and His Word as we read and discuss how Ezra and Nehemiah helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

#### ATTENTION GETTER:

Bring: *Unger's Bible Dictionary* and/or others, *Strong's Concordance* and/or others, *Nave's Topical Bible*, *The Illustrated Bible*, *The Living Bible*, the NKJV and/or other versions, a regular dictionary, Bible atlas and other aids.

After prayer, read the objective aloud.

Say: This is a small library of Bible study aids. Check them out! Pick them up; turn the pages; see the pictures; enjoy.

#### BIBLE LESSON:

Say: God's Word has everything we need to know about God. And if we read it daily and search it diligently—what does that word mean? Yes! It means carefully and with enthusiasm—if we search God's Word diligently, He will reveal Himself to us.

Say: So, what are these books for? [To help our search; to make it more fun; to make it easier if we don't know Hebrew and Greek.]

Say: Most of us know that God's temple in Jerusalem was destroyed twice! After it was destroyed the first time, God sent Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Ask: What are walls used for? Why didn't God just tell them to rebuild the temple?

Say: Today we will use these Bible study aids to help us learn more about Ezra and Nehemiah and about their task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Say: Open your own Bibles now to Ezra 1.  
Please read Ezra 1:1-2. [Give comment.]  
Please read Ezra 2:2.

Say: Who was Zerubbabel? Let's see if we can be helped out by any of these books.

Do: Let the kids pick up different resources, but watch who grabs the Unger's or other Bible dictionary. Give them a minute or two and when somebody says they've found something tell everyone: "Okay, stop looking. Let's see what \_\_\_\_\_ found." Someone may find some helpful stuff in another source—which is great—but if the information isn't easily understood, guide them to one that is.

Explain who Zerubbabel was. Give each student who found something the opportunity to share it.

*Suggestion:* After looking at the resources, assign students the job of drawing an outline of the walls of Jerusalem. (See Unger's Bible Dictionary, Nehemiah article, for a simple drawing; see the Jerusalem article for a more complicated drawing.) You can reproduce some dotted line outlines of the walls of Jerusalem and put in a gate or two as points of orientation if you think the students may have problems doing the drawing.

While they do the drawing, you can read to them some of the important scriptures on the subject. Read ahead of time and choose the four or five that fit your purpose and your allotted time.

Here are the essential scriptures:

Ezra 1:1-2

2:2

3:3, 8

4:1, 4, 6, 11, 21, 24 (God's work stopped for 15 years!)

5:1, 2, 11, 12, 13

6:3, 7, 14 (But in time the work continued.)

Nehemiah

1:1-6

2:1-5, 11-20

4:21, 23

5:7-11 (When God's ministers teach God's law, everyone rejoices.)

12:27

**Music:**

Read the following poem together:

Ezra, Nehemiah and others, too!  
Trusted God and so can you.  
They had a job to get things done,  
Working hard became their fun.  
When they saw the walls were down,  
They were sad for Jerusalem town.  
Into the breach they jumped like fire,  
With weapons, tools and strong desire.  
God provided His Spirit strong,  
To accomplish righting wrong.  
Ezra, Nehemiah overcame,  
Rebuilding walls in God's great name.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Nehemiah 8:8 "So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading."

# family activity

## THE POINT:

We used Bible study aids to learn more about God and His Word as we read and discussed how Ezra and Nehemiah helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

## FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

During class we learned how to use a concordance and the students each had the opportunity to use the concordance and look up various words to find their meaning. Help your child(ren) look up other words during the week and in the future. Some words/names to look up from today's lesson:

- Ezra (Strong's #5830) help, aid, (surround)
- Nehemiah (Strong's #5166) consolation of Yah
- Jerusalem (Strong's #3389), dual (two main hills), city of peace
- Zerubbabel (Strong's #2216) descended of Babylon (or "from" Babylon)

The following scriptures were discussed in class today. Please take some time this week to go over these scriptures with your child(ren) and ask them what they learned:

Ezra 1:1-2

2:2

3:3, 8

4:1, 4, 6, 11, 21, 24 (God's work stopped for 15 years!)

5:1, 2, 11, 12, 13

6:3, 7, 14 (But in time the work continued.)

Nehemiah

1:1-6

2:1-5, 11-20

4:21, 23

5:7-11 (When God's ministers teach God's law, everyone rejoices!)

12:27

*Note: The teacher can decide which parts are essential and which are extra.*

Imagine what it would be like if you could take virtual reality tours of the destruction of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of its walls. Discuss what you would see.

## MEMORY VERSE:

Nehemiah 8:8 "So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading."