



Ezra Teaches the Law

Main Scriptures: Nehemiah chapter 8

The Jews returning from the captivity rebuilt the broken wall and the burned gates of Jerusalem.

On the first day of the seventh month, all the people gathered at the square in front of the Water Gate asked Ezra the scribe to read the Book of the Law of Moses. When Ezra praised the LORD, they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Ezra read to them from early morning until noon at the square by the Water Gate, and all the people were attentive

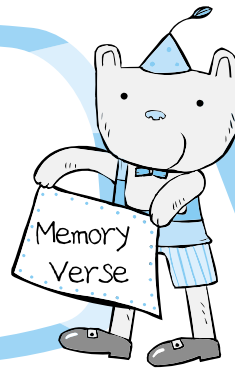
When they heard the words of the Law, they began to weep. Then Nehemiah told them, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn nor weep.



Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to poor people. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

They returned to their

More to be desired are they than gold,
Year, than much fine gold Sweeter also
than honey and the honeycomb.
(Psalm 19:10)



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homes and joyfully feast with their poor neighbors because they understood the words of the Law.

Now on the second day, the priests, Levites, and the heads of all the people gathered to Ezra to learn more about the words of the Law. And they found the LORD had commanded that the children of Israel should stay in booths during the feast of the seventh month. So they announced and proclaimed it to all the Jewish people, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."

So those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under them with great joy, for they had not done so since the days of Joshua.

Day by day, from the first day until the last day, Ezra read the Book of the Law of God. And on the eighth day all the people got together at one place and thanked God as it was written,





Today's Study

The People Longs for the Word

The Jewish people were anxious to hear the Word of God and asked Ezra to read the Book of the Law of Moses. Locate the verses below the illustrations and write how they listened to the Words of God.



Nehemiah 8:3



Nehemiah 8:3-4



Nehemiah 8:6

From

until

they heard the
Word of God

The Joy of the People

The People were full of joy to hear the Word of God. Why? (Nehemiah 8:12)

Nehemiah 8:12

The _____ of the LORD are right, _____ the heart (Psalm 19:8);
I delight to _____ Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.
(Psalm 40:8)



Today's Lesson

God and Joy



What pleases you and makes you joyful? Choose all that applies from the following list.

7. When I think of heaven where I'll live forever

8. When I read comic books

5. When I had my birthday party

1. When I memorized the Bible verses

3. When I was born again

2. When my friend who I evangelized to got saved

10. When I think of God my Savior is always with me

9. When I read the Bible

6. When I memorized the whole multiplication table

4. When I aced at the math competition



Today's Lesson

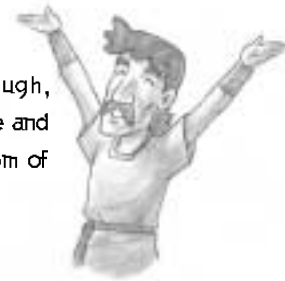
Look at these two people below and answer the question.

Habakkuk

I have no fruit neither on the fig tree nor on the vines. And there's nothing to eat in the field. No lambs, no cows, nothing!



I'm so happy, though, because God saved me and I can go to the kingdom of heaven.



Jeremiah

I have tried to evangelize to them, but they never listen to me and just annoy me.



I'm so happy and joyful, though, for the Bible says God loves me and is always with me.

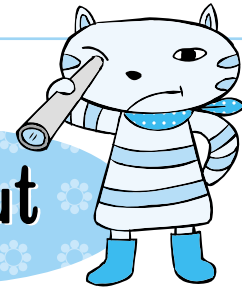


How could Habakkuk and Jeremiah be so joyful?

Read Psalms 16 or 23 and find the reasons why we can be joyful. (Doing it with your parents or teacher will be good.)

You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased. (Psalm 4:7)

Let's Find out



The Feast of Tabernacles



The Feast of Tabernacles is the festival to commemorate the 40 years in the wilderness the Jewish people had had before they got into Canaan out of Egypt by Moses' guide. It is called so because they used to make a tabernacle out of big

branches and leaves gathered from the wilderness and live in it in those days to abide by the Word of God. Also, it is referred to as Pentecost because it was celebrated after the harvest, bringing the offerings of gratitude to the LORD.

The reasons that the LORD gave this festival to the Jewish people are for them to remember the grace of God who had protected and helped them for 40 years in the wilderness, to let them know He has worked for them even so far, and to get them to be grateful to God who lords over the whole world and gives them everything.

Parents

Teacher