

Scripture reference: Get Ready! Ezra, Nehemiah and the Return of the Exiles

Story summary: In today's lesson, you are learning about Ezra and Nehemiah. When Ezra learned that the people were not living according to God's laws, he arranged for the people to hear the law taught and explained. When the people heard God's rules (laws), they realised they could not keep them and they were sad and afraid. But then they remembered that it is not the rules that save them, but God that saves them. Ezra and Nehemiah loved God and were having a party because of all the amazing things God had done for them and because it is not the rules that save them, but God that saves them.

Optional Lesson Strengthening: Imagine going to the doctor because your leg hurts. He takes an x-ray of your leg, then tells you, "Ok, here's your x-ray, now you're all fixed up!" That wouldn't be very helpful right? Getting an x-ray doesn't fix your broken bone. It just shows the doctor where the problem is so he knows how to fix it! Sometimes we have x-rays, or tests that show us we have a problem. That's what our story is about today. It's about God's people, and a problem they had—sin. The law of God is a lot like an x-ray. Hearing God's law doesn't fix our problem of sin, in fact, it's the Law that shows us we have a problem in the first place! We can read God's Word and ask ourselves if we have obeyed everything in it. We might try really hard to do everything that the Bible says and fix our own sin, but following the Law isn't the answer, because it's impossible for us to obey it perfectly. The law shows us our great need for God! And God has provided us with the cure for our sin: Jesus. We don't need to try to be perfect because that's impossible. All we need is faith in Jesus.

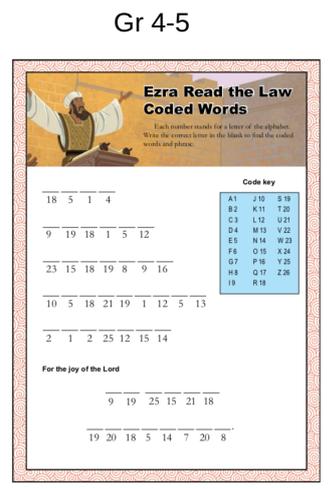
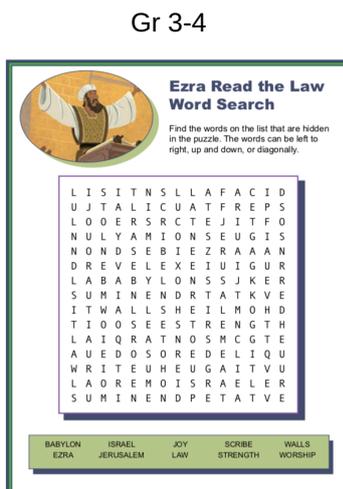
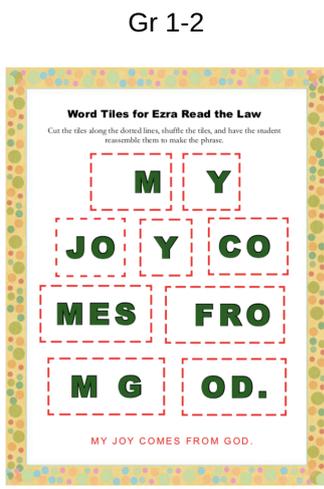
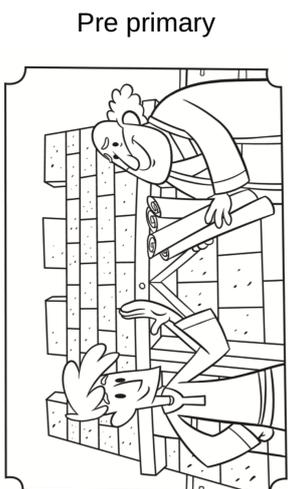
Activities:

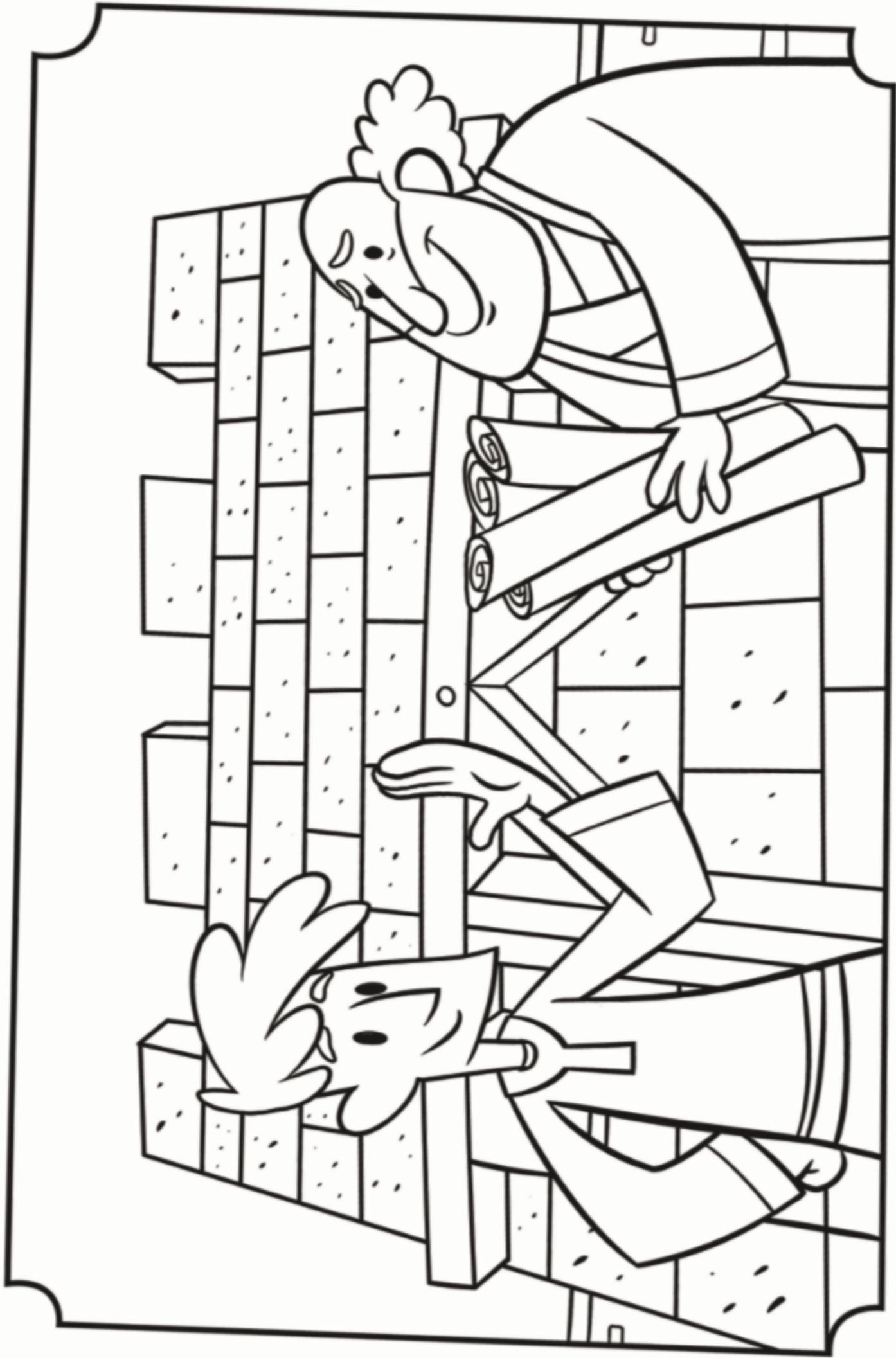
What you need:

- Template
- Colouring in crayons or pencils
- Erasor
- Scissors*

*Cut out the Gr 1-2 puzzle pieces in advance

Further discussion: From the very beginning God knew that the Law wouldn't be able to save us, because we wouldn't be able to obey it. Before God created the world He knew that we would sin against Him, and the only way for our sin to be forgiven would be for Him to come to earth to rescue us. Long ago God promised His people that He would send a rescuer, a Messiah to save them from sin. Jesus is our rescuer, and when we trust in Him, our sins are forgiven and we can be close to God again!





Nehemiah became the governor of the Israelites and Ezra became the priest. - **Nehemiah 5**

Word Tiles for Ezra Read the Law

Cut the tiles along the dotted lines, shuffle the tiles, and have the student reassemble them to make the phrase.

M

Y

JO

Y

CO

MES

FRO

M G

OD.

MY JOY COMES FROM GOD.



Ezra Read the Law Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L I S I T N S L L A F A C I D
U J T A L I C U A T F R E P S
L O O E R S R C T E J I T F O
N U L Y A M I O N S E U G I S
N O N D S E B I E Z R A A A N
D R E V E L E X E I U I G U R
L A B A B Y L O N S S J K E R
S U M I N E N D R T A T K V E
I T W A L L S H E I L M O H D
T I O O S E E S T R E N G T H
L A I Q R A T N O S M C G T E
A U E D O S O R E D E L I Q U
W R I T E U H E U G A I T V U
L A O R E M O I S R A E L E R
S U M I N E N D P E T A T V E

BABYLON
EZRA

ISRAEL
JERUSALEM

JOY
LAW

SCRIBE
STRENGTH

WALLS
WORSHIP



Ezra Read the Law Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet.
Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded
words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

18 5 1 4

9 19 18 1 5 12

23 15 18 19 8 9 16

10 5 18 21 19 1 12 5 13

2 1 2 25 12 15 14

For the joy of the Lord

9 19 25 15 21 18

19 20 18 5 14 7 20 8