

# EZRA 6-NEHEMIAH 1

## WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

### WEEK IN REVIEW

In the book of Ezra we see the rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel and the restating of the law under Ezra. In the second half of the book, the temple is complete, the celebration takes place, there is a counting of the people, and a confession of unfaithfulness. Ezra comes on the scene in chapter 7, and leads a new group of exiles back to Jerusalem. Ezra is a priest and a teacher who had a mission as he went back from exile. It tells us that, "Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel" (Ezra 7:10). His job was to simply study God's Word, obey God's Word, and teach God's Word. That is a great goal for all of us too!

God's people fall into **sin** and disobey God's command to be a holy and set apart nation. Sin is anything we do that goes against God Word or will in any way. Ezra teaches God's laws to the people and shows them the ways in which they have broken them. Something specific that they did was marry people who would lead them away from God. Ezra was brokenhearted over this sin, and confessed it to the Lord. **Confession** is telling God the truth about what we've done wrong. 1 John 1:9 tells us that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

We then head to the book of Nehemiah! When God's people returned from exile, it was not the same as when they left. We see them rebuild the temple under the leadership of Zerubbabel, remember the Law under the leadership of Ezra, and rebuild the walls under the leadership of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was still in exile when he heard the news that the walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed. The city was in ruins! Imagine if you came home after being away for a long time and your house was destroyed. This is how God's people must have felt. It says that when Nehemiah heard these things, he mourned for a number of days. He was fasting and praying. Before Nehemiah did anything for God, he made sure to seek God in prayer first. Nehemiah says to God, "Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." We will see Nehemiah eventually approach the king to ask to go rebuild the walls.

## FAMILY GUIDE

<b>BIG IDEA:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like Ezra, we should study God's Word, obey God's Word, and teach God's Word</li> </ul>
<b>KEY STORIES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Temple complete</li> <li>Ezra sent to teach</li> <li>Ezra's prayer</li> <li>Confession and repentance</li> </ul>
<b>KEY VERSES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ezra 7:10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel."</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Ezra 9:4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice."</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Nehemiah 1:4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>WORDS TO KNOW:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anything we do that goes against God Word or will in any way</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Confession</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telling God the truth about what we've done wrong</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Reflection Questions

<b>1.</b>	What did Ezra devote himself to do? (Ezra 7:10)
<b>2.</b>	What does it look like for you to study the Bible, obey the Bible, and teach the Bible this week?
<b>3.</b>	What is confession? What is the purpose of confession?