

Unit 8 at a Glance

Exile and Return

Unit Overview

The students continue their Old Testament survey as they study the Israelites in captivity and exile. Through a very difficult and trying time, God remains faithful and devoted to encouraging and protecting his people. From the powerful plans that unfold in the book of Esther to the eventual rebuilding of the temple and wall in Jerusalem, the students watch God orchestrate a “guts and glory” return to Jerusalem.

Unit Goals

- The students will understand that God had a powerful plan for his people in captivity.
- The students will see that God can move the hearts of leaders to accomplish his will.
- The students will learn that God wants to use them to accomplish his will today.

Unit Contents

Lesson 1 Esther

Scripture Memory Verse

Esther 4:14

“For if you remain silent at this time...you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

Timing is everything in this exciting story of daring faith, noble hearts and a royal rescue. Not only will the students see how Esther grew to be a woman of great courage; they will see God’s plan woven through every detail of her life. The students will be inspired to think of ways that they can help make a difference for their families, too.



Lesson 2 Ezra and Nehemiah

Scripture Memory Verse

James 1:4

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

The temple and walls of Jerusalem are not the only things under construction in these two awe-inspiring stories. The students will watch as Ezra and Nehemiah are also used by God to rebuild the faith and courage of God’s people. The students will see that God is glorified through sacrifice and devotion, and that God can help them overcome discouraging circumstances in their own lives.





3rd and 4th Grades

Dear Parent,

The students continue their Old Testament survey as they study the Israelites in captivity and exile. Through a very difficult and trying time, God remains faithful and devoted to encouraging and protecting his people. From the powerful plans that unfold in the book of Esther to the eventual rebuilding of the temple and wall in Jerusalem, the students watch God orchestrate a “guts and glory” return to Jerusalem.

On the reverse side of this page, you will find an outline and a description of the lessons that comprise this unit. Included with each lesson is a Scripture Memory Verse for you to review with your child at home.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways you can reinforce these lessons at home:

- Have a family devotional on true beauty from 1 Peter 3:1-6 and 1 Samuel 16:7. Talk about the difference between what the world considers beautiful and what God sees as beauty. (Even boys can think about what is popular and attractive!) Discuss what made Esther—and other women in the Bible—beautiful both inside and out!
- Have a discussion with your child about your marriage. Ask your child what they respect and admire about your relationship. Ask them how they see love and respect at work as you fulfill your different marriage roles. Talk about specific ways that you want to bring glory to God through your marriage. If you are a single parent, talk about specific ways that you want to bring glory to God through your relationship with your child and other disciples.
- Read Nehemiah 4:13-14. Talk about a project that you can do as a family to help someone who is going through a difficult time. Set aside time together to pray about the person’s needs and then to meet those needs. This will definitely bond your family. Look for ways to remember the time by taking pictures and keeping a journal. Plan to do this once or twice a year. Encourage other families to join you.
- Talk with your Children’s Ministry Leader about projects that need to be done for the church or the children’s ministry. Offer your family to help meet those needs.

We look forward to being partners with you to help your child grow to know and love God more.

Thank you,

Your child’s teachers

GENERATION NEXT