



God Reveals His Goodness to the Jews

Ezra 7–10



LESSON GOAL

Students will repent when they see God's goodness and their sin.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- God revealed His goodness to Ezra.
- The Jews sinned in the Promised Land.
- The Jews repented of their sin.
- God was merciful to the Jews

KEY VERSE

"O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!" (Ezra 9:15).

APPLICATION

- Study God's Word, obey God's Word, and then teach God's Word.
- Praise God for the blessings He gives.
- Admit your guilt before God.
- After confessing your sin, change your actions.

NEXT WEEK

God Uses Esther to Protect the Jews
Read Esther.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

Because of God’s grace toward His people Israel, He brought the first wave of exiles back to the Promised Land. He blessed those exiles with the generosity of emperors, protected them in the presence of opposition, and encouraged them by sending His prophets Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 1–6). When the temple was finished, the Israelites were able to worship God joyfully at His temple. God had not finished blessing Israel. Nearly 30 years after the finishing of the temple, another group of exiles returned to Israel. God was again pouring out His goodness upon Israel. But unlike so many times in Israel’s history, the Israelites responded to God’s goodness with repentance. Readers today should have the same response (Rom. 2:4).

God Gives a Teacher of the Law (Ezra 7:1–10)

Although Ezra 7–8 records nearly two chapters of God’s goodness to Israel, Ezra 7:1–10 provides a summary of that goodness through introducing the scribe Ezra. Ezra is first introduced by the genealogy in Ezra 7:1–5. Ezra was in the Aaronic family but was not a high priest. Instead, he was “a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses” (7:6). As a scribe, Ezra had the job of studying, interpreting, and teaching God’s Law to the people of Israel. Ezra described the Law as that “which the LORD God of Israel had given” (7:6). God not only gave the gracious gift of His revelation to the people of Israel, but He also gave scribes such as Ezra to teach them the Law.

Ezra is described as having “the hand of the LORD his God upon him” (7:6, 9). By His power, the Lord has the ability to do anything He wishes. When the Lord’s hand is upon somebody, God sovereignly directs His omnipotence to accomplish what is good for that person. Because God’s hand was upon Ezra, King Artaxerxes (who reigned over the Persian empire from 464–423 B.C.) “granted him all his request” (7:6). Although the text is not specific, Artaxerxes’ letter in 7:11–26 probably is a response to Ezra’s request. God’s hand was also the reason that Ezra and his entourage entered Jerusalem safely (7:7–9). Ezra 7:10 tells the reason for the Lord’s blessing upon Ezra’s endeavors: “For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Ezra was committed to understanding, implementing, and expositing God’s commands. His faithfulness not only to study, but also to obey and to teach resulted in God blessing his efforts. God’s grace in giving Israel a scribe like Ezra eventually led to the beautification of the temple (Ezra 7:27) and the repentance of the Israelites (Ezra 9–10).

God Gives Blessings from the King (Ezra 7:11–28)

In his letter to “Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven,”

Artaxerxes gave Israel an unbelievable list of blessings. The letter most likely was written in response to the requests presented by Ezra (Ezra 7:6) and perhaps was even drafted by Ezra, which would explain the king's knowledge of the Law, the priests, and the sacrifices. In the letter, the king gave permission for any Jews who wanted to return to Jerusalem to do so (7:13). The king and his counselors also sent silver and gold as an offering to the God of Israel (7:15). In addition to this money, the returning exiles could bring with them their own money or money offered by Jews who stayed in Babylon (7:16). The king was concerned that temple worship be done according to God's Law. To that end, he provided money for offerings and articles for temple service (7:17–19). Not only did the king send money with Ezra, but he also instructed his treasurers to give Ezra whatever he needed for either the journey or to fulfill "whatever is commanded by the God of heaven" regarding "the house of the God of heaven" (7:21–23). The king's blank check would allow Ezra up to "one hundred talents of silver" (nearly four tons!) as well as wheat, wine, oil, and salt. The king's favor also included freeing any priests or temple workers from taxation (7:24). Ezra praised God, who had "put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem" (7:27). The king had another purpose for sending Ezra besides advancing temple worship and thus escaping God's wrath (7:23). Artaxerxes also sent Ezra to "inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of your God" (7:14). Ezra was sent to see whether the Jews in Jerusalem were obeying God's Law. The king commanded Ezra to place over Jerusalem officials "who know the laws of your God" and to "teach those who do not know them" (7:25). The king also gave Ezra the right to punish those who disobeyed the Law. In His desire for the obedience of His people, the Lord moved the world's most powerful king to sponsor the teaching and enforcing of God's Law among God's people.

God Gives a Desire to Return (Ezra 8:1–20)

Although the king had given the Jews freedom to return, the majority decided to remain in Babylon. Only about 1,500 males returned to the Promised Land (18:1–14). (Along with their families, maybe as many as 7,000–8,000 Jews returned.) When the Jews had assembled and camped for three days, Ezra discovered that none of the Levites were there (18:15). Ezra collected the Israelite leaders and sent them to Casiphia to bring "servants for the house of our God" (18:16–17). Ezra apparently was concerned that he would go to the temple and not find enough Levites to handle the increased population. Without Levites, the Israelites could not obey God's Law. In response to the call, 38 Levites and 220 temple servants (Nethinim) joined the exiles (18:18–20). Ezra rejoiced that the Levites and servants had been given "by the good hand of God upon us" (18:18).

God Gives Protection to the Entourage (Ezra 8:21–36)

If the Jews were going to arrive safely in Babylon, they would need the Lord's protection. The Israelite entourage was weakened by the presence of helpless children and precious metals (Ezra 8:21). The Jews needed to transport and protect over 25 tons of silver, almost four tons of silver articles, and almost four tons of gold (8:25–27). Although the entourage was large, the possibility of such massive rewards would be tempting to many. Ezra was "ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen" because he had already confessed to the king that "the hand of God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him" (8:22–23). Instead of asking the king for help, the Israelites fasted and humbled themselves before God, looking to Him alone for guidance (8:21) and protection (8:23) along the trip.

The Lord heard the Jews' prayer and brought them safely to Jerusalem. After the short delay caused by sending for the Levites and by fasting, the Jews left on "the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem." Once again Ezra said, "The hand of our God was upon us" (8:31). Because of God's hand, the Jews escaped

enemies and ambushes along the way (8:31) and arrived in Jerusalem “on the first day of the fifth month” (7:9). The Lord had protected not only their lives, but also the gold. Before leaving Babylon, Ezra had divided the treasure into 12 portions and given each portion to a separate priest (8:24–30). When they arrived in Jerusalem, the money was recollected and weighed at the temple (8:31–34). (Apparently every priest had faithfully guarded the wealth entrusted to him.) Having been brought safely by God to the temple, the exiles were able to offer sacrifices again (8:35).

Israel Confesses Sin (Ezra 9)

God had graciously given Ezra to teach the Law to the Jews in Jerusalem. Perhaps it was Ezra’s teaching of the Law that led the leaders to come to him and confess their sins four months after his arrival (Ezra 9:1; 10:9). The leaders told Ezra that instead of separating themselves from the “abominations” (most likely referring to the idolatry) of the surrounding nations, they had chosen to marry women from those nations. All levels of Jewish society had been involved in this sin, including both the priests and Levites, and especially the leaders and rulers (9:1–2). Such intermarriage between the “holy seed”—the descendants of Abraham—and the pagan nations was a direct violation of God’s Law (Ex. 34:10–17; Deut. 7:1–5). Like King Solomon (1 Kings 11), Israel always followed their foreign wives into idolatry. The Israelites had just recently returned from exile, but they already were engaging in the sins that had led to that punishment.

Ezra was devastated when he heard of the wickedness. His inner anguish was visibly expressed by the tearing of his robes and plucking out of some of his hair and beard (Ezra 9:3). The Lord had been gracious to bring Israel back to the Promised Land, but Israel had responded to His grace with blatant disregard of His Law. All those who “trembled at the words of the God of Israel” realized that Israel was facing judgment for this wickedness. They joined Ezra, who sat “astonished until the evening sacrifice” (9:4).

When the evening sacrifice arrived, Ezra represented the people in confession before God. Ezra began his prayer by humbling himself before God by falling on his knees and spreading out his hands to the Lord (Ezra 9:5). Ezra identified with the people in their wickedness as he confessed to God, “Our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens” (9:6). Although God had left Israel a remnant and had shown grace to the exiles (9:8–9), they were as guilty as their ancestors who had been exiled for their wickedness (9:7). In his confession, Ezra named the specific way in which Israel had offended God’s holiness (9:10–12). As he reflected on God’s mercy in not treating the Israelites as they deserved but bringing them back from exile, Ezra asked in shock, “Should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people committing these abominations?” (9:13–14). Ezra did not even ask for mercy, realizing that Israel deserved to be completely wiped out (9:14). Instead, he proclaimed that God is righteous and that guilty Israel was unworthy of standing before such a God (9:15). If the Lord had mercy on Israel, it would be only because of who He is and not because of who they were.

Israel Changes Actions (Ezra 10)

Ezra was joined in his confession, weeping, and bowing down by an assembly of Israelite men, women, and children who wept bitterly (Ezra 10:1). Although they did not know how God would punish their wickedness, the people knew that God is gracious to those who repent (10:2). This hope encouraged the Israelites to make a covenant with God to obey His Law by divorcing their wives and sending away the children who came from these marriages (10:3). Because of their sinful choices, Israel had to choose what least offended God’s holiness, either being

married to pagan women or divorcing their wives, both of which God hates. The people followed the advice of Ezra to put away these wives and vowed to follow through with this commitment (10:5). Ezra still felt the weight of the people's wickedness and continued to fast and mourn. Although the people were committed to repentance, the fact of their sin would leave painful scars. Three days later, the people of Israel assembled to fulfill their covenant (Ezra 10:7–11). Ezra commanded them "to make confession to the LORD God of your fathers, and do His will" by separating themselves from their pagan wives (10:11). Because it was raining and there were so many people, the people asked to meet back in their cities and be judged by the elders of the cities "until the fierce wrath of our God is turned away" (10:14). For three months (from the first of the tenth month to the first of the next year), disobedient Israelites were judged in their cities by the elders, who decided how best to proceed in each situation (10:16–17). (Ezra 10:18–44 lists 113 Jews who had taken pagan wives.)

Conclusion

God's kindness to Israel is shocking. At the same time that the first group of exiles was engaging in intermarriage with pagans, God's hand was leading a second wave back. God blessed Israel by moving Artaxerxes to grant Ezra's request to provide gold and silver for the temple and to enable Ezra to go back and teach the Law to the people. While the Israelites were dishonoring God, God was blessing them with opportunities to worship Him just as He desired. The people responded rightly to God's grace by confessing their sins and repenting of their wickedness. God's goodness led them to repentance. As saints today contemplate how God's hand has been upon them, they should join the Israelites in repenting of unconfessed sin. Ezra's prayer and attitude and the people's action are an example to believers of how they should repent of their sin.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

How did God keep His promise to Israel?

In Jeremiah, the Lord promised Israel that He would return them back to their home, the Promised Land.

How did God achieve the rebuilding of the temple?

God stirred the hearts of the exiles to return and rebuild and the hearts of pagan kings to give materials and money in order that the temple might be built.

How did the people show their right heart before the Lord?

The people desired to worship God the right way. Once they were in their cities,

they gathered together and worshiped God as He required. Then they began to build the temple.

What did the people do when the foundation of the temple was built?
When the foundation was built, the people joyfully worshiped the Lord.

Who discouraged the Israelites from building the temple?
The Samaritans.

Who did God send to the people to encourage them to continue building?
God sent Haggai and Zechariah to tell the people that they needed to continue construction of the temple.

How did God have mercy on Israel?
God allowed the people to worship at the temple again.



Puppets

Cut out two eight-inch cardboard circles. Draw a happy face on one and a sad face (with tears) on the other. Glue on yarn for hair, and glue a wooden stick to each. Explain to the students that today's lesson will show God's goodness to Ezra and the Israelites (hold up the happy-face puppet) and also Israel's sin and repentance in the Promised Land (hold up the sad-face puppet).



Read, Obey, and Teach

As the students arrive, pull small groups aside and show them three cards: one should say, "Read God's Word," another should say, "Do God's Word," and the third should say, "Teach God's Word." Have the students take turns guessing what order the three cards should go in. Then read them Ezra 7:10, which gives the order as: read, obey, and teach. Explain that we cannot teach God's Word until we obey it, and we cannot obey it until we know what it says. Explain that there is another step as well: we must prepare our hearts before we read God's Word. We will never want to read it, or be able to obey it or teach it, if our hearts are not prepared. Our hearts must be prepared by humbly repenting of our sins and trusting Jesus as Savior.



Walk with the Wise

Tell the students a story about a boy who desired to obey his parents but found obedience increasingly difficult as he spent more time with friends who did not care about obedience. Add as many details as you think will make the story interesting. (You may even want to tell a story from your own childhood.) Ask the students why the boy found it hard to obey. Read and explain Proverbs 13:20: "Whoever walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed." Tell the students that in today's lesson, the Israelites have chosen for their closest friends—their wives—people who worshiped idols. Ask the students how they think that affected the Israelites' obedience to God.



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Going to Jerusalem

Have the students remove their shoes and place them in a pile. Then tell them to close their eyes while you mix up the shoes. On the count of 10, they should carefully go find their shoes and put them on. Today we will hear about how the Israelites hiked through the desert to return to Jerusalem.

Variation: Bring in various types of shoes—ballet shoes, snowshoes, hiking boots, tap shoes, cowboy boots, sandals, etc. Discuss what each shoe is for. Ask the students what type of shoes the Israelites might have worn in the hot desert on the way back to Jerusalem. Let the students pretend they are the Israelites hiking through the desert to Jerusalem.



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Separate from the Bad

Talk about what it means to separate from something. Give the students various items to separate—uncooked pasta and beans, pennies and nickels, two types of breakfast cereal, beans and rocks, etc. Tell them that beans are good to eat and that you want to separate them from rocks, which are bad for you to eat. Sometimes we need to separate from bad things, too. Ask the students what things they should separate from. Talk about children who say bad words, get into trouble, talk back to their parents, are irresponsible with other people's property, etc. Tell the students that in today's lesson the Jews have to separate themselves from people who would lead them away from God.



Set Apart

God instructed the Israelites to remain pure and devoted to Him, but they disobeyed by marrying women who worshiped idols. Ezra told them that they needed to be set apart for God. To illustrate the concept of separation, mix food coloring into some water so that the water turns dark brown. Then place equal amounts of the colored water and a clear oil (canola oil, for instance) in a sealable bottle. Shake the bottle so that the water and oil mix, and then have the students watch as the oil moves to the top. This is how God wanted the Israelites to separate from idol worshipers.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Many of the Israelites had moved back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. God had moved the king to give them all the supplies they would need to finish this task, and they were excited to see the temple finally completed. They now had a place to worship God in the way He had commanded them.

But there were other Israelites still in Babylon; they had not yet moved back to Jerusalem. God put it in the heart of Ezra, a teacher of the Law of Moses, to lead many of these people back to Jerusalem. Ezra gathered thousands of Israelites, making sure to include Levite priests, who would be needed to help serve in the temple in Jerusalem.

When the new king, Artaxerxes, found out that more Israelites were returning to Jerusalem, he sent a letter to Ezra, giving his blessing. He also gave Ezra a note saying that he could take whatever supplies he needed for the journey, as well as a large amount of gold and silver for the temple. King Artaxerxes even gave the Israelites money so they could buy the animals they would need to sacrifice to God when they arrived at the temple. God worked in the heart of this king to help His chosen people return home. He was gracious to the Israelites, supplying them with an abundance of all the things they would need.

Before they began their journey, the Israelites fasted and prayed. Ezra was concerned about all the gold and silver they had with them because he knew they would be a target for robbers. He did not ask the king to send soldiers with them for protection, though, because he already had told the king, “The hand of our God is favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him” (Ezra 8:22). God answered Israel’s prayers by giving Ezra an idea of how to protect the gold and silver. He chose 12 of the priests and divided the gold and the supplies into 12 parts. Each priest was responsible to protect his share of the gold and supplies.

God was gracious to the Israelites. They completed their journey, and all the gold and supplies made it safely to Jerusalem. They went to the temple and offered sacrifices to God for the first time in many years, glad finally to be able to worship God in the way He had commanded.

However, the leaders of the Israelites who were already living in Jerusalem came to Ezra with bad news: many of the Israelite men, including the priests, had disobeyed God’s Law and married non-Israelite women. These women were from pagan nations, and they worshiped idols and did not believe in God. This was a terrible situation. Ezra knew that the Israelites must repent of their sin, for God required that they keep themselves holy, set apart as His chosen people. Ezra grieved greatly, ashamed of the Israelites’ sin. The Israelites realized their sin, too and they grieved because they had broken God’s commands, even while He had



poured out His grace on them. The Israelites decided that they must divorce their wives and send them back to their homelands.

Once again, the Israelites disobeyed God, even while He had been so gracious to them. But God continued in His graciousness by showing them their sin and enabling them to repent so that they would not further hinder their relationship with Him. Even in our sin, God is gracious by showing us that we need to repent.

Lesson Questions

Whom did God give to the Israelites to teach them the Law?

God gave them scribes such as Ezra to teach and interpret the Law.

Who helped Ezra to arrive in Jerusalem safely?

King Artaxerxes helped Ezra by granting his requests. He did this because the hand of the Lord was on him.

Why did the Lord bless what Ezra was doing?

Because God can do anything He wishes, He has the power to direct every man's steps. Ezra was committed to understanding, and teaching God's commands to Israel. He was faithful not only to study God's Word, but also to obey and to teach it. God blessed Ezra for his obedience.

What did the king give Ezra?

The king gave permission to any Jew who wanted to return to Jerusalem. He also gave silver and gold as an offering to God, money for offerings, and articles for temple service.

Why did the king give all these things to Israel?

The king gave gold and silver to Israel because God had put it into his heart to do so.

What did the people do after Ezra read to them and taught them the Law?

The people realized their sin, confessed it, and repented of it.

How did God respond to the people's sin?

God was merciful to the people. He even blessed them by sending a second wave of exiles and gold and silver for the temple. God also blessed them with the opportunity to worship Him as He desired.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Israel's Actions

Divide the class into two groups, and have them sit facing each other. Have a student on one side hold the happy-face puppet (from the Point section) and a student from the other side hold the sad-face puppet. As you explain the lesson,

the students should hold up the appropriate puppet. (For instance, when you discuss gifts from God's hand, the happy-face puppet should be raised, and when you discuss the Israelites confessing their sins, the sad-face puppet should be raised.)

Praise and Worship

God Is So Good

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

The B-I-B-L-E

Trust and Obey



Blessings from God

In Ezra's heart God put a plan

(Place hand over heart.)

To lead the Jews back to their land.

(March in place.)

He also moved the pagan king

(Hold hands at head to indicate crown.)

To give supplies and things to bring.

(Pretend to carry a large box.)

God kept them safe; they made it through.

(Point upward.)

The silver and the gold did, too.

(Hold out one hand, then the other, palm up.)

God's blessings had been very great;

(Hold arms out wide.)

But still the people disobeyed!

(Cross arms; raise chin defiantly; stamp foot.)

God gave another blessing then:

(Hold out hands in front of body, palms up.)

He caused the Jews to see their sin

(Place both hands over heart; hang head.)

He'd blessed them in so many ways!

(Nod head.)

They turned from sin and gave Him praise.

(Turn to one side; lift hands up in praise.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Happy and Sad

Materials: eight-inch cardstock circles, wooden craft sticks, glue, yarn, crayons, plastic eyes, other decorations

Directions: Give the students two cardstock circles each, and have them draw a happy face on one and a sad face on the other. Then they can decorate their puppets with yarn for hair, plastic eyes, etc., and glue a wooden craft stick to the back of each one. When they are done, have the students sit in a row in front of you, holding their puppets. Ask them what blessings they want to thank God for (family, church, food, the Bible, toys, friends, etc.). While they hold up their happy-face puppets, pray to God to thank Him for these blessings. Then ask the students to think of some sins they want to confess to God. (You could give some examples.) While the students hold up their sad-face puppets, pray and ask God for forgiveness and for changed hearts and actions. Remind the students that we should mourn when we sin against God, and we should change our actions. When we repent, God is faithful to forgive us. (Have the students raise the happy-face puppets again.)



“God’s Good Hand”

Materials: copies of the “God’s Good Hand” craft pages, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give the students each a copy of the craft pages, and have them cut out the two hands and glue them together, back to back. Then have them cut out the two circles and glue each one to the appropriate side of the hand. Help each student to think of a specific way God has blessed him and write it in the space provided.



“God’s Goodness”

Materials: copies of “God’s Goodness” craft pages, scissors, crayons, tape

Directions: Have the students cut out the square and then cut it into four triangles. Help them tape the triangles over the words “Rejoice! Give Thanks, Repent,” reforming the square and creating four flaps that, when lifted up, will reveal the words.

Coloring Pages

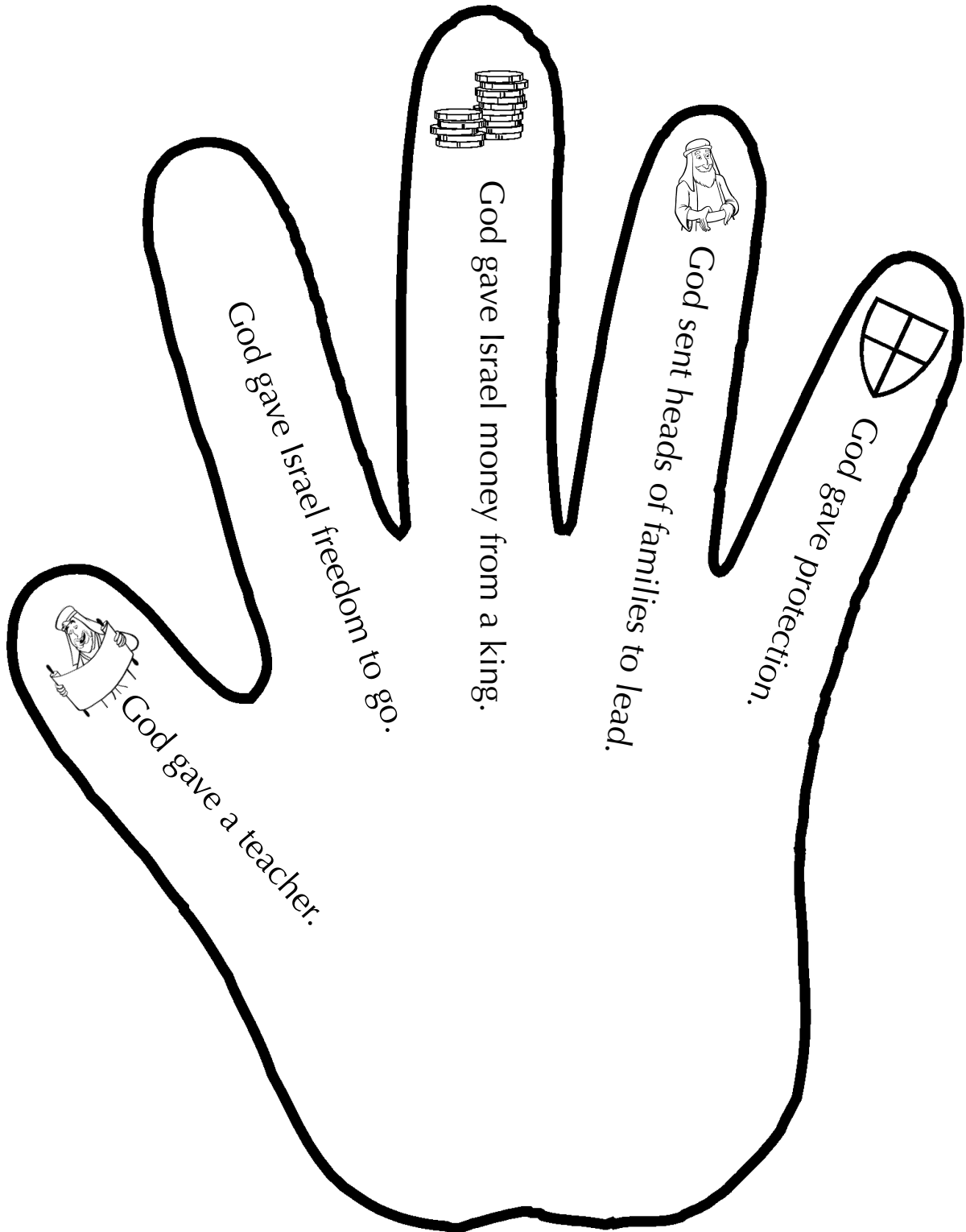
Give each student the coloring sheets from the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



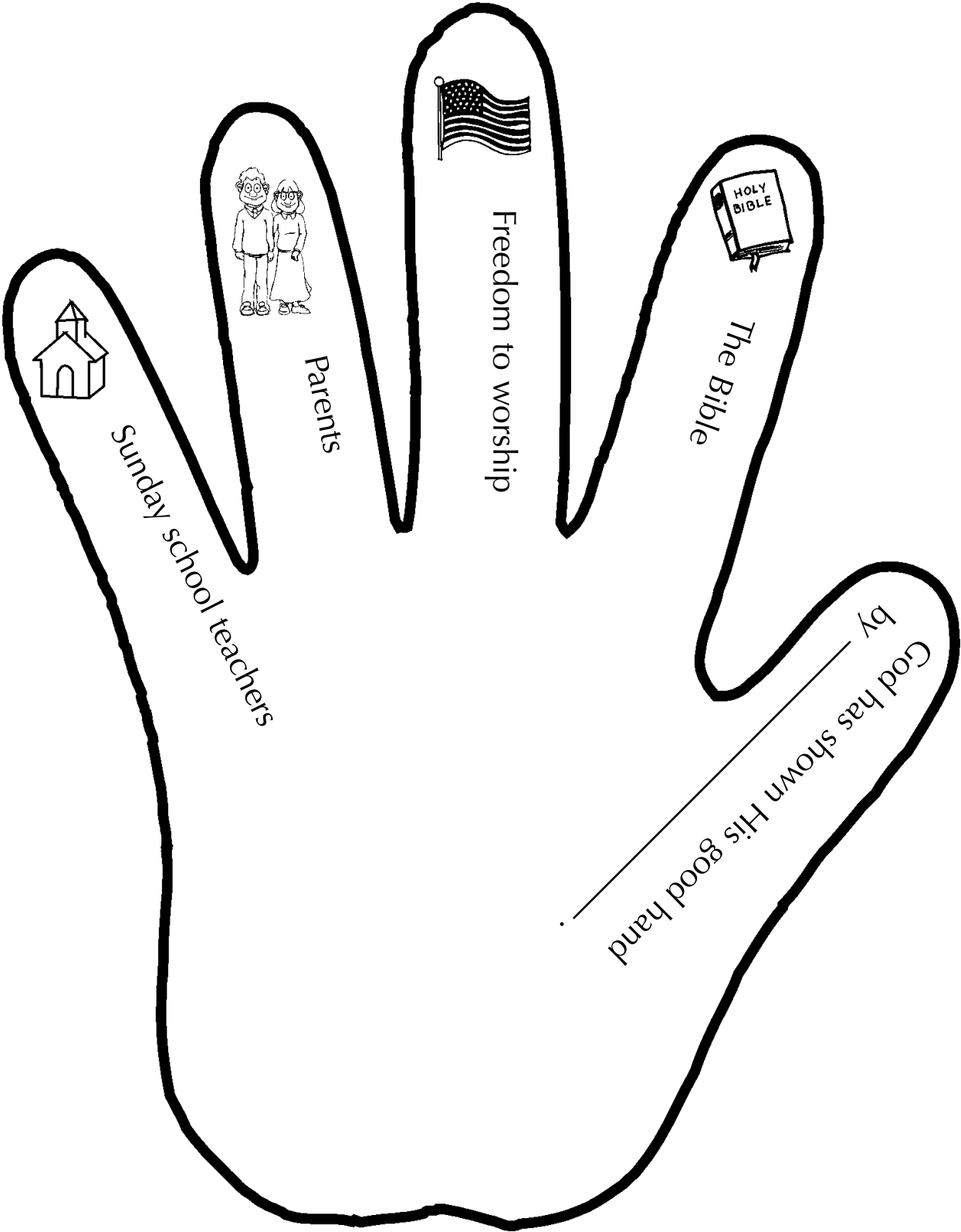
MEMORY VERSE

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10).

God's Good Hand



God's Good Hand



God's Good Hand

**God's Good
Hand on Ezra
and Israel**

Ezra 7–8

**God's Good
Hand on Me**

**God's Good
Hand on Ezra
and Israel**

Ezra 7–8

**God's Good
Hand on Me**

**God's Good
Hand on Ezra
and Israel**

Ezra 7–8

**God's Good
Hand on Me**

God's Goodness

In Ezra 7–10, we learned that God gave many gifts to Israel as they returned from captivity to rebuild the temple.

How should we respond to
God's goodness?

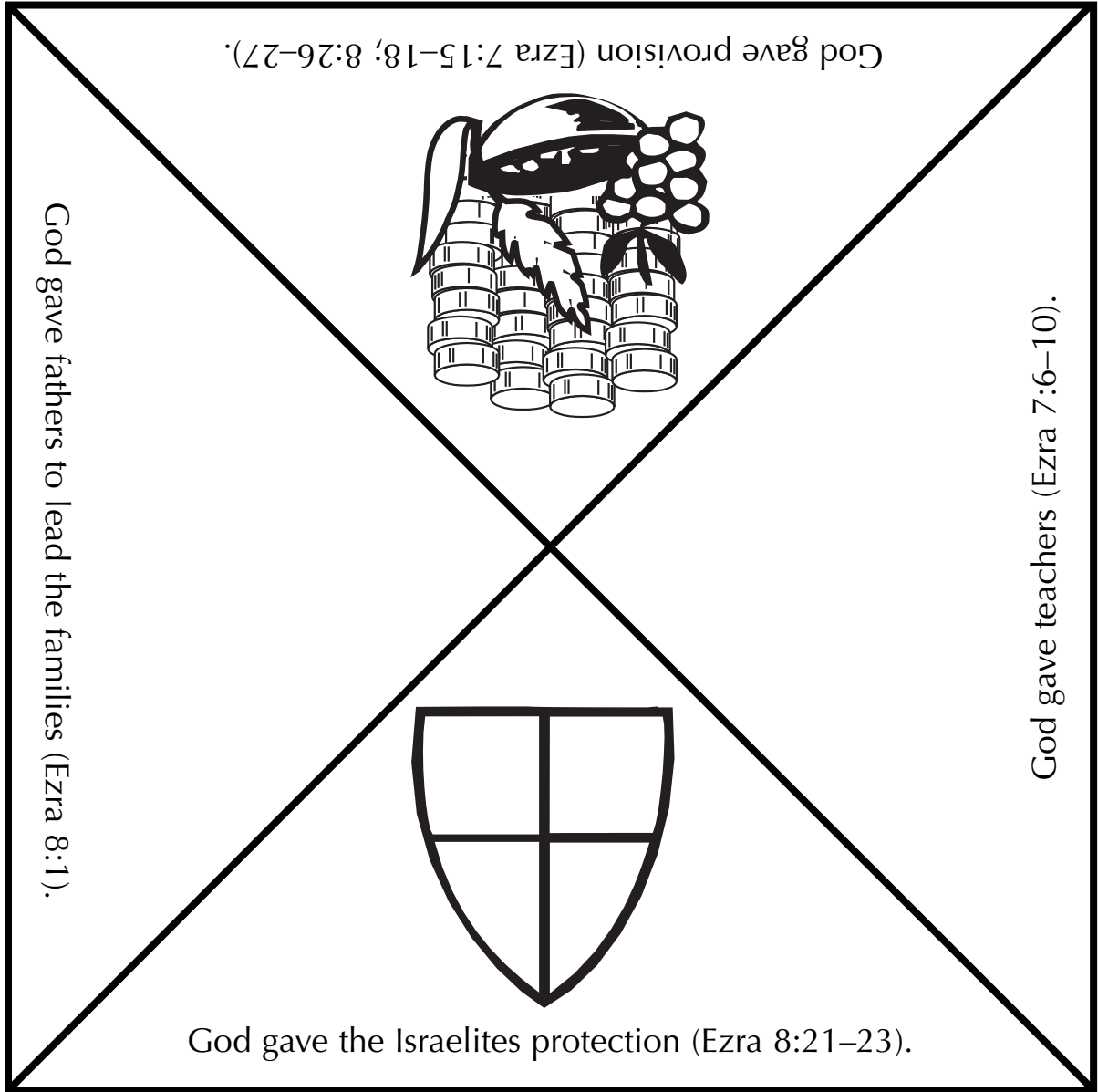
As the Israelites did, we should...

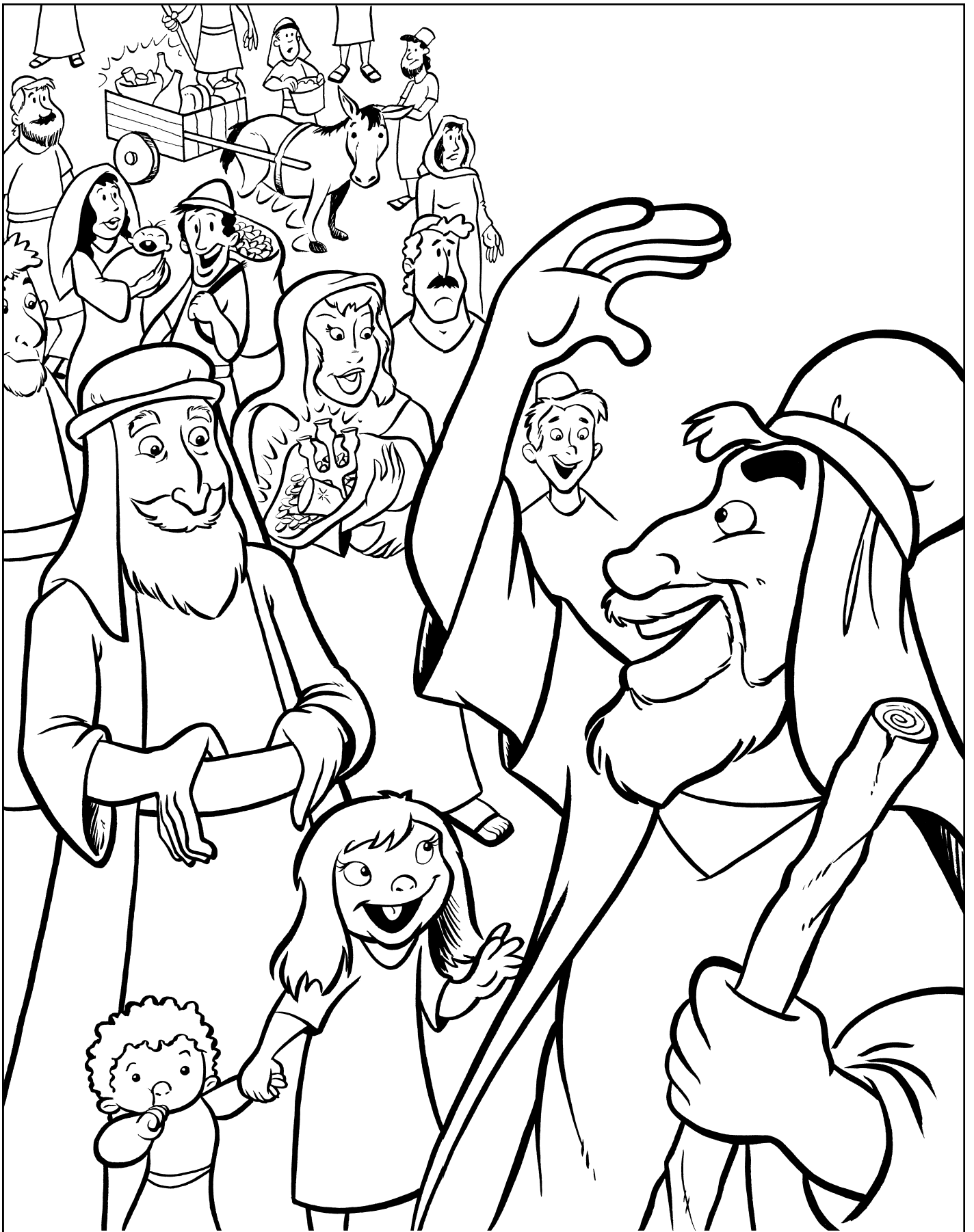
Rejoice!

Give Thanks

Repent

God's Goodness





Ezra and the Jews returned to Jerusalem with gifts from King Artaxerxes (Ezra 7–8).



The leaders of Israel gathered to confess their sin (Ezra 9:1-2).

