

# Set Your Heart to Study (4/16/23)

**Main Verses:** Ezra 7:7-10

**Key Verse:** Ezra 7:10

**'Takeaway':** God loves to bless those who love his word & want to help others love it.

**Getting Started:** Why do we read the Bible?



**READ** the main verses: Ezra 7:7-10 (or have older kids help read)

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Where were the people returning to Jerusalem from?
- Whose hand was with them on their trip? (v 10) What does that mean?
- What did Ezra want to do? Why was that important?

Elementary:

- Where were the people returning to Jerusalem from?
- Why are the people included in the group returning — some of the people of Israel, some of the priests & Levites, the singers, gatekeepers, & temple servants – important given Ezra's intent?
- Who was Ezra descended from? (vv 1-5 Aaron)
- How long was their trip?
- What was Ezra's intent in returning with this group from exile? Why is that important?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- This group of Israelites, including those who led in worship, were returning from exile.
- The people were sent away from the land of Israel by God many years earlier for **not obeying** God's commands & rules.
- God's "hand" was on Ezra – God helped Ezra in his journey & mission because Ezra followed & obeyed God. Ezra loved God's word.
- Ezra wanted to **study** God's commands & rules, **do** them, & then **teach** them to the people of Israel.
- **Ezra's mission** was to teach God's commands & rules to the people of Israel.
- Because Jesus "the Word" (John 1:1) came to us in love, we can also take his word to others in love.

Elementary:

- This group is returning to Jerusalem from exile. They were **in exile** because they **did not obey** God's commands & rules.
- Ezra is a Levite, a priest descending from Aaron, Moses' brother & the first priest of Israel. God helps Ezra in his mission because Ezra follows & obeys God. Ezra loves God's word & wants to help others to know it & love it, too.
- There's an order to Ezra's mission – First, he will **study** God's commands & rules, then he will **do** them, & **teach** them to the people of Israel.
- Like Ezra, if we are going to follow God's commands & rules, we must **study** his word, **do** what he tells us to do in his word, & then share (**teach**) his word with those around us.
- Because Jesus "the Word" (John 1:1) came to us in love, we can also take his word to others in love.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him for his word that helps us know how to live for him. Thank God for sending Jesus, "the Word" to us in love. Ask him to help you learn more about him each day, & ask him to help you share his word with others in love.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him for his word that helps us to know him & to live in a way that pleases him. Ask God to give you a desire to study his word. Thank him for sending Jesus "the Word" to us in love, & that through faith in Jesus, we can know God & share his word with others in love.