

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<< GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

Ezra 1



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- **Mornings:** Thank God for the freedom He has provided for all who trust in Jesus. What price did Jesus pay for our freedom?
- **Evenings:** Praise God for the way He uses ordinary people to accomplish His plans. How did God use King Cyrus to fulfill the promise to His people? Who has God used in your life to help you know Him and learn more about Him?

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY POINTS TO JESUS:

GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES. GOD CHOSE TO USE KING CYRUS IN HIS PLAN TO GRACIOUSLY DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM EXILE. **KING CYRUS' ACTION TO FREE THE PEOPLE REMINDS US OF JESUS, WHOM GOD CHOSE TO RESCUE SINNERS AND BRING US TO OUR TRUE HOME IN HIS KINGDOM OF GRACE.**

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Can God be trusted?

Yes. God cannot lie or ever be wrong, so we can trust whatever He has said.

>>> CONTINUE THE STORY AT HOME

EZRA 1

Dear Families,

Harriet Tubman was known as the “Moses of her people.” Born into slavery in 1822, Harriet later escaped and led other slaves to their freedom. Over a 10-year span, Harriet Tubman made many trips from Maryland to the Southern states and helped free more than 300 people from slavery. She often helped those individuals find work and homes to start their new lives.

Harriet Tubman is a hero for the time and sacrifice she gave to helping others find freedom. God used Harriet Tubman to lead others to freedom. Her story reminds us of how God used a king named Cyrus to bring His people out of captivity. King Cyrus decided to let all of God’s people return to Jerusalem to build God a temple there. Cyrus sent gold, silver, animals, and other supplies to help the people. **Just as God had promised, the people were free to return to their homes after 70 years in exile.**

Stories like these point us to an even greater rescue story. **The Bible tells us that apart from Jesus, all people are captive to sin and have no power to free themselves from its consequences.** God loved us and sent Jesus as our Deliverer. He is the One who came to free us from the power of sin. **If we trust in Him, we have freedom, forgiveness, and a new home with Him forever and ever.**

God always keeps His promises. God chose to use King Cyrus in His plan to graciously deliver His people from exile. King Cyrus’ action to free the people reminds us of **Jesus, whom God chose to rescue sinners and bring us to our true home in His kingdom of grace.**

Pray: *Jesus, thank You for loving us with such an amazing love. Our sin held us captive, but You sent Your Son, Jesus, to free us! We know that His death has paid the price for freedom, and His resurrection promises a new life and eternal home with You for all who believe. Thank You. Amen*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES<<<

For Fun: Hide a stuffed animal or favorite toy of each child. Give them a list of funny activities they must do to “free” the item. Think of silly tasks like hop on one foot and sing the happy birthday song, try to whistle while eating three crackers, or walking around the kitchen while balancing an egg on a spoon. After kids complete the tasks, give them the stuffed animal or toy. While this was silly and fun, talk with kids about the seriousness of what Jesus did to purchase our freedom from sin.

To Serve: Take some time as a family to create “coupon books” of kind acts or favors you can do for one another. Exchange the coupon books at the beginning of the week and try to complete as many of the acts and favors as possible by the end of the week. Discuss how the act or favor cost something for the giver, but it is free for the recipient. Remind kids that Jesus paid the penalty for sin so that we could experience freedom. This is all an act of His amazing grace!



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

The person who trusts in
the Lord, whose confidence
indeed is the Lord, is
blessed.
-Jeremiah 17:7