



BIBLE CONNECTION

Nehemiah 8-10 (pages 502-508)

CHARACTER WORD

Respect – A high or special regard; honor one another

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can respond to God's word with *respect* through my attitude and actions.

MEMORY LINK

Psalm 119:162

"I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure."

(KBC Study Bible pg. 648)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

None

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: None

Option 2: Balloons

BIBLE CONNECTION

Large eraser

SURF TEAM LEADER

Memory Link cards, index cards, pens, Hang 10 pages

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: KBC Study Bibles, music

Option 2: KBC Study Bibles, coin

Ezra Reads God's Word

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Today's lesson emphasizes the value of God's word as a great treasure. Many children may never have owned a Bible of their own. Some children may never have even seen or held a Bible. Today, you have the privilege of introducing kids to the Bible... God's word... **HIS**tory.

The Bible deserves respect because it is God's holy word. It contains absolute truth and is God's message to all people, which includes each of us. God's Word is true, trustworthy and reliable. While it's good to treat printed copies of the Bible respectfully and carefully, the greatest way to show respect for God's word is to listen to, learn, live and love the words inside the book and the God who inspired them.

In today's Bible story, Ezra leads the people of Israel to hear God's word. Upon hearing, the Israelites responded with respect by committing to obey what God's word says. Even their actions reflected respect for God and His word. How well do your actions show respect for God and His word? May our examples point kids to a life-long commitment to love and obey Him and give them a desire for His word... the great treasure!

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson



No supplies needed

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the kids in your Surf Team and to introduce today's lesson.

- *Today is Great Treasure Day! Can you think of something you treasure?*
- *Today's character word is respect. How can your actions show respect for someone or something?*
- *Why does the Bible deserves respect? (It is God's word.)*
- *How can you take care of your Bible and treat it respectfully?*
- *Name a place you can read your Bible. (Be sure "school" is one of the places mentioned. Encourage kids to follow school rules and read their Bibles at appropriate times.)*



Guide clubbers to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

Worship Tip

Choose a song that tells about God's word or includes verses from the Bible. Consider the songs The books (of the O.T) or The Books (of the N.T) by Ka*Pop. Encourage the kids to look in the table of contents for the books in order to sing along. Even if you don't have time for a song today due to extra time allowed for presenting Bibles, you can play the song as the kids enter or exit.

Talk About It 

Why do you think the people began to weep when they heard God's word read aloud? They were reminded of their sin and the many times they had disobeyed God's law. Think of a time you've felt guilty because of your sin. Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 John 1:9 (page 1355). When a person confesses their sin and turns away from it, God forgives that sin and makes them clean, as if the sin was completely erased. Show the eraser. Ask another volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 43:25 (page 772) to see what God thinks about confessed sin. *The Bible says that God blots out sin and does not remember it any more. It's as if God erases the memory of that sin from His mind forever.*

Nehemiah 9

Guide the kids to read the heading at the beginning of Nehemiah 9 on page 504. (The People Confess Their Sins). *On the 8th day of the special feast, the people gathered together again and Ezra led them in a time of confession and worship. Confession of sins and worship show respect for God.*

Talk About It

The truth of God's word reveals hidden sin. But God promises forgiveness to anyone who confesses and turns away from their sin. Show the eraser. The people of Israel confessed their sin and God gave them a fresh start. You can confess your sins and get a fresh start, too.

Lead the kids in a moment of silent prayer. You may want to play quiet music as the kids silently confess their sins to God and ask God for forgiveness.

Nehemiah 10

After confessing their sins, the people sealed their commitment to fully respect God by worshipping Him and obeying all the instructions in God's word. They promised to obey the Lord in everything.

Gospel Connection

God's word is powerful and deserves your respect. Your attitude and your actions toward God's word will show how much you value this treasure and respect God. Like the people in today's story, when you learn and obey God's word, your actions and attitudes will be transformed from the inside out.

Lead the kids to find the tip-in section "God Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life" (between pages 626-627). Encourage the kids to follow along as you use these pages as an outline to explain God's plan of salvation.

We want to help you understand the big message in the Bible. You can trust Jesus and invite Him into your life to be your forever friend. Invite children wanting to know more about becoming a Christian to move to the designated area to meet with a leader one-on-one.

Application/Transition

God's word is a treasure that deserves your respect. One way you can show respect for God's word is to read it every day. In your Surf Teams, you'll talk more about the Hang 10 Pages, a guide to help you hang out with God 10 minutes each day, reading the Bible and praying.

Teaching Tip

Since returning clubbers do not receive another Bible, think of a way to honor them if they brought their Bible from last year. It may be a sticker that goes on the inside cover or a special bookmark. Recognizing those returning kids who already have received Bibles will make Great Treasure Day just as exciting for them too.

Gospel Tip

The central theme of the Bible is God's redemption of people. Help the kids understand how all parts of the Bible point to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Allow plenty of time to talk about the tip-in pages "God Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life" (between pages 626-627). Since kids will want to explore their new Bibles, give them time to do so without rushing them to the next activity. You may need to adjust your schedule to allow adequate time for gospel discussion and one-on-one follow up. Be prepared and follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with kids in small groups;
applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



GREAT TREASURE DAY

"RESPECT"

(page 5)

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens

Gospel Connection

Before you begin, ask if there are any clubbers who would like to talk with the Bible connection leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their forever friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.

Today's Lesson

- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *What did you learn about respect for God today?*
- *Show kids the tip-in pages "Spending Time With God" (between pages 242-243). Remind kids that reading the Bible and praying every day will help them learn more about God.*
- *Guide kids to make a plan for what time and in what place they will spend time with God every day.*

Pray

Encourage kids to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead the kids in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for kids during the week.

Lord, thank You that Your word gives life and shows us how much You deserve our respect. Help us understand Your word and all the truths that are found in it – like a great treasure. In Jesus' name, Amen

Use the Bible

Give each child a memory link card. Review today's memory link and character word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's memory link.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each child a Hang 10 page. Challenge kids to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage kids to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

Draw kids' attention to the scripture references on their Hang 10 pages. Point out that all the Bible readings this week are from Psalm 119. Tell the kids that Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and is all about showing respect for God's word by learning and obeying what God says. Challenge kids to go above and beyond by reading all of Psalm 119 at home this week.

Teaching Tip

Be sure the Bibles are the focus for your surf team time today. You may need to adjust your schedule to allow extra time in surf teams for kids to dig in and explore their Bibles.

Bible Presentation Tip

Make your Bible presentation a special time, but factor in the size of your club. Calling up kids by name one at a time can be negative for a large club. Kids may get bored while waiting for their turn and cause disruptions. Valuable teaching time will be lost with a time-consuming Bible presentation. Large clubs, consider giving out Bibles by surf teams, with the surf team leaders presenting to each child individually within the small group. Alternately, give unopened Bibles to all the kids. Then, upon your signal, kids will unwrap their Bibles at the same time, generating excitement for everyone



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Your word
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treasure.”***

Psalm 119:162

KBC Study Bible page 648