



### **BIBLE CONNECTION**

Nehemiah 8:1-12; 9:1-3  
(pages 502-504)

### **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**

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

#### **MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY**

Option 1: None  
Option 2: Balloons

#### **BIBLE CONNECTION**

Large eraser

#### **SURF TEAM LEADER**

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

#### **MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME**

Option 1: KBC Study Bibles, music  
Option 2: KBC Study Bibles, coins

# **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... **HiStory**.

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



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

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 deserve respect? (It is God's word.)*
- *How can you take care of your Bible and treat it respectfully?*



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 TIME**

Pointing hearts toward God

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.



## MEMORY LINK



Teaching a Bible verse to clubbers; helping them memorize the verse

No supplies needed

### Focus on today's Memory Link

*Have you ever seen anyone with a metal detector on a beach? What are they looking for? (Treasure) In KiDs Beach Club®, we also look for treasure, not on a beach, but in God's word, the holy Bible. God's word is the greatest treasure on earth.*

Tell kids to turn to the tip-in page "About the Bible" (after page 242). Briefly explain how the Bible is organized and written. Help kids understand that the Old Testament points to the need for all people to have a Savior, someone who forgives and saves from sin. The New Testament is about Jesus, who is the Savior that God promised in the Old Testament.

Guide kids to read Psalm 119:162 aloud several times. Challenge them to close their Bibles and say the verse without looking.

*This verse tells us that God's word is a great treasure. What would you do if you found a hidden treasure? God's word is a great treasure because it is God's message to us. And it's not a hidden treasure. God wants people to read His word and know more about Him.*

*Today's character word is respect. You can show respect for God when you listen to, learn, live and love God's word, the Bible, the great treasure.*

### Option 1 - BREATHE EASY

No supplies needed

Explain to the kids that the Bible is God-breathed. That means, God inspired people to write down the things God told to them. Explain that kids will all take a deep breath and then recite today's Memory Link as many times as they can in one breath. Have everyone do it at the same time. Let them try it a few more times on their own. Lead additional rounds with kids reciting books of the Bible (use the table of contents).

### Option 2 - BALLOON BONANZA

Inflated balloons

Give each surf team an inflated balloon. Instruct each surf team to work together to keep the balloon from touching the ground, gently tapping it up as each word of the verse is recited. Form new groups within each surf team and play again. For an extra challenge, give each surf team more than one balloon.

## GREAT TREASURE DAY

### "RESPECT"

(page 2)

### Psalm 119:162

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

(KBC Study Bible pg. 648)

### Bible 101

Tell kids to turn to the tip-in pages "How To Use This Bible" (behind the front cover) and explain that each verse has an address and can be located using the book, chapter and verse. Show them the table of contents (page vi) and lead clubbers to find Psalm 119:162 (page 648).

### Teaching Tip

Every leader will need to help assist kids in finding verses or pages as directed throughout the meeting. Clubbers can also help each other. To keep good order, once kids find a verse or page, train them to place their finger on the page and look at you. That way, you'll know when all the kids have found the verse and are ready to listen.

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## BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's Character Word through gospel-centered Bible story

Large eraser

### Set the Stage

Ask 1-2 volunteers to share about a time they started to do something, realized it was wrong, and had to start over. Show the eraser. Talk about how erasers allow you to correct mistakes and start again. *In today's story, God's people were given a chance to start over. Let's see what happened.*

### Tell the Story

*Ezra was a scribe who lived as a captive in Babylon. His job was to keep careful records of all that happened. Later, Ezra returned to Jerusalem where he became a priest, teaching the people God's laws and leading them to worship and obey God.*

*After the broken wall surrounding Jerusalem was rebuilt, the people of Israel gathered together in an open courtyard. Ezra stood on a platform and opened the book of the law, God's word. Ezra read the scroll aloud to all the men, women and children who were old enough to understand. Everyone remained standing and listened attentively as Ezra read the law from morning until noon.*

*Why do you think the people stood attentively and listened to God's word as Ezra read it? They respected God and His word. They wanted to honor God and show Him respect by learning and obeying Him.*

*Listen as I read Nehemiah 8:5-6 on page 503 of your KBC Study Bibles. Tell me ways the people responded. (They stood up, said, "Amen," lifted up their hands, bowed faces to the ground, worshiped the Lord.)*

*In verses 8-12, it goes on to tell us the Levites moved among the people, helping them understand the meaning of the law. The people began to weep because they knew they had not respected God's law. The leaders told the people not to weep, but to celebrate because this was a holy day.*

*As the people read more from God's word, they learned that God had commanded them to observe a special feast. In obedience to God's law, the people celebrated the feast as a way to show respect for God.*

*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.*

## GREAT TREASURE DAY

### "RESPECT"

(page 3)

### As You Prepare

Before the session, ask two volunteers to each mark one of the following verses in their Bibles and read it aloud when called upon: 1 John 1:9 (KBC Study Bible page 1355) and Isaiah 43:25 (page 772).

### Great Treasure Day Tip

Since today is Great Treasure Day, consider having someone take video or pictures of this special day to share with your church. Seeing children receiving Bibles in the public school is a powerful thing. With a little planning and editing you can also have a great promo video for years to come. Be sure to share your photos and video with KiDs Beach Club® by emailing them to [photos@kbcmail.org](mailto:photos@kbcmail.org) or on social media by using hashtag #GreatTreasureDay.

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### **Application**

*The truth of God’s word reveals hidden sin. But God promises forgiveness to anyone who confesses, or tells God, 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.

### **Gospel Connection**

*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.*

*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.

### **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

### Today's Lesson

- 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.
- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *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 the kids to read the heading at the beginning of Nehemiah 9 on page 504. (The People Confess Their Sins.) *On the eighth 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.*
- 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 and reinforce the purpose of the Hang 10 pages.

### 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 do the Weekly Challenge and bring back their Hang 10 pages next week for a time of discussion.

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.

### 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.*

Guide kids to make a plan for what time and in what place they will spend time with God every day.

### 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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## MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



## GREAT TREASURE DAY

### "RESPECT"

(page 6)

### Option 1 - MUSICAL BIBLES

KBC Study Bibles, music

Guide each surf team to sit in a circle. Give one child in each circle a KBC Study Bible. Explain that when you play music, the kids will pass the Bible around the circle. When the music stops, the surf team leader will ask the child holding the Bible a review question. Continue until all questions have been asked.

### Option 2 - COIN FLIP

KBC Study Bibles, coins

Guide kids to sit in a circle. Place one KBC Study Bible in the middle of the group. Open it to any page the kids read from today. Kids will take turns gently flipping the coin so it lands on the Bible. If it lands "heads up" the child who tosses will answer a review question. If it lands "tails up" the child who tosses will select another child to answer a review question.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is the great treasure? (God's word, the Bible)*
2. *What is today's Character Word? (Respect)*
3. *How can you show respect for God and His word? (Listen to it; learn it; live it; love it)*
4. *What are the two parts of the Bible called? (Old Testament and New Testament)*
5. *Who wrote the Bible? (God inspired men to write down His words.)*
6. *Recite today's Memory Link, Psalm 119:162. (I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.)*
7. *Who read the book of the law in front of the people? (Ezra)*
8. *Name one way the Israelites showed respect for God's word. (They stood, listened, lifted their hands, bowed their heads, confessed their sin, and wept.)*
9. *What does God promise to do when people confess and turn away from sin? (Forgive)*
10. *Why is God's word a great treasure? (Answers will vary.)*

### Teaching Tip

Many people are misinformed about whether or not it's legal for kids to have a Bible at school. Reassure kids that it is NOT against the law for them to have a Bible in school. Here's what kids can LEGALLY do with their Bibles in school:

- *Bring it!*
- *Read it in free reading time.*
- *Share it with a friend (during non-instructional times).*
- *Use it to invite a classmate to Beach Club!*

The last tip-in page in the KBC Study Bible (just in front of the back cover) contains more ideas on how kids can make Jesus cool at their school.

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**“I rejoice at  
Your word  
as one who  
finds great  
treasure.”**

Psalm 119:162

