

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

### SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 3

#### CONNECTION POINT:

Help others discern the voice of God.

#### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** Babe Ruth may have hit 714 home runs, but he also struck out 1330 times. Michael Jordan admitted he missed over 12,000 shots in his career. In spite of these failings, both are considered among the greats in their games. As followers of Christ, we often don't do as we should. We fail, but God still wants to work through us. God will even use those failures to teach us and make us better mentors.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

# FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Live It Out:** Review the Bible story. Say that the Bible is like no other book because it teaches about God. Review some of your child's favorite Bible stories.

All the people gathered in front of a high platform. Ezra stood on the platform so everyone could see him.

Ezra opened the Bible scroll and read to the people. The people stood up and listened. The people worshiped God as they heard the words.

While Ezra read, some men helped the people understand what the words meant. The people became sad. They had not been doing what God wanted them to do. The men told the people, "Do not be sad. This is a special day. God wants you to be happy. Go home and cook some good food. Share your food with people who do not have food to eat."

All the people went to their homes. They cooked and shared the food with others. Everyone was happy because they had learned from the Bible what God wanted them to do.

## KIDS

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Live It Out:** Explain that many people who listened to Ezra read the Scriptures had not heard them in a long time, or even at all. Emphasize the importance of reading the Bible.

All of the people gathered in the open square. Ezra stood on a tall platform so that everyone could hear and see him, and he read God's Law from morning to mid-day. From the moment Ezra opened the Book of the Law, all the people stood and listened. And when Ezra blessed the Lord, the people shouted "Amen" and worshipped God.

Then teachers helped everyone understand the things that Ezra read from God's Word. The people felt sad when they understood they had been disobeying God's Word. Ezra and the teachers of the Law told the people not to be sad because God had forgiven them. Instead, they should rejoice and be joyful because God was at work in their lives. So, all the people ate good foods and celebrated the important day they heard and understood God's Word.

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 2:22-26; 3:7-10,15-18

- When have you seen God use your own mistakes to help you grow?
- In what ways do you most clearly hear God speak into your life?
- How would you describe the connection between hearing from God and obedience?

**Live It Out:** Eli's sons were sinful and selfish, and they refused to honor either their father or God. Because of their rebellion, they received a harsh judgment. Today, if we want to experience God's blessings, we must choose to show honor to those in positions of authority. This helps us learn humility and submission, ultimately in relation to God.

When you see others going astray from Scripture and God's will for their lives, talk to them. With gentleness and respect, encourage them to seek God, trust Him, and respond in obedience. This includes respecting the authorities in our lives and responding to criticism with grace and humility.