

- **TELL THE BIBLE STORY: EZRA READ GOD’S WORD**

After the people were settled in their towns, they gathered in Jerusalem. Men, women, and anyone who could understand the teaching came to the square. The people asked Ezra, the scribe, to bring the book of the law. Ezra stood on a tall wooden platform built just for this day. Important men stood on either side of Ezra. He opened the book. When he did, the people stood up. Ezra read aloud the book of the law from early morning until the middle of the day. Everyone listened closely.

Special helpers called Levites explained God’s law to the people as they stood in their places. The Levites also read out of the book and translated it for the people so they could understand it.

The people began to cry. They realized they had broken many of God’s laws. Nehemiah, the governor, begged the people not to be sad, but to worship God. Nehemiah said, “Go, eat, and give food to those who have none. Today is a holy day to God.”

The people ate. They drank. They shared their food. They had a great celebration because they now understood the words Ezra read to them.

—BASED ON NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- What did the people ask Ezra to read to them? (*book of the law*)
- How long did the people stand listening to Ezra read? (*from early morning to the middle of the day*)
- Who was the scribe who read to the people? (*Ezra*)
- How did the Levites help the people as they listened to Ezra? (*They explained what the words meant.*)
- Why were the people sad when they heard the law? (*They had disobeyed God.*)
- What did Nehemiah tell the people to do? (*eat, drink, share their food*)