

**Week of Sunday 11/29 – Saturday 12/5**



# **HOPE**

## **Jesus is Coming**

### **Bible Activities**

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- Bible story video
- Puppet show video
- Baby Jesus gift craft
- Nehemiah & Ezra coloring sheet
- Popsicle stick puppet activity
- Read the Bible story together
- Share the Bible story with a friend
- Table Talk Questions



Check out the website for videos and digital copies of the curriculum.

### **Worship Together**

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- “Go Tell It on the Mountain”
- “Away in a Manger”
- “I Find My Joy”
- Memory Verse
- Pray together

### **Family Fun Activities**

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#### **Decorate JESUS Box**

- Decorate the outside of your JESUS Box.
- Color the inside lid to be used for a backdrop for your stick puppets.
- Retell the Bible story each week using your stick puppets.

#### **Advent Calendar**

- Before December 1, open Advent box and hang red & white twine.
- Attach all 25 advent envelopes in order.
- Starting December 1, open the numbered envelope that corresponds with the date.
- Repeat each day leading up to Christmas.

# Bible Story

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**Hope: Jesus is Coming**

**Get Ready! - The Jesus Storybook Bible (pg. 170-175)**

*Reference: Neh. 8-10, Mal 1, 3-4, Ezra 7*

Have you ever been to a party that lasted a whole week? How about a sermon that went on all day?

Well, that's what happened to God's people after they came home from being slaves. They had forgotten how God wanted them to live, or who they were supposed to be. So Ezra and Nehemiah read them the rules God had given Moses.

But something odd happened: the more the sermon went on, the sadder they all got. Why? Was the sermon that boring? No, not really. It was strange, you see. As Ezra read the book of rules, it worked like a mirror. It showed them what they were like, and they didn't like what they saw. They saw that they had not been living the way they should. They saw that they were cruel and selfish.

"We've blown it," they cried. "Now God will punish us!"

They thought they knew what God was going to do. But they didn't. Of course, they might have picked up a clue from Ezra's name, which means "Help is here!" And an even stronger one from Nehemiah's name, because his name means "God wipes away our tears." And that, as you'll see, is just exactly what God was getting ready to do.

Ezra looked up at God's children. Great, hot tears were welling up in their eyes and streaming down their cheeks. He stopped his sermon—mid-sentence—and shut the book. "We're having a party!" he shouted.

And that's just what they did! All week long.

"God wants us to be happy!" Ezra said.

All day they listened to stories about the wonderful things God had done for his people. How he made the world. How he gave a special promise to Abraham.

How he rescued them from slavery. How he spoke to Moses and showed them how to live. How he brought them to a special land. How he rescued them—no matter what, time after time, over and over again—because of his Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love.

They remembered how God had always, all through the years, been loving his children—keeping his promise to Abraham, taking care of them, forgiving them. Even when they disobeyed. Even when they ran away from him. Even when they thought they didn't need him.

Then God told his children something more...

I can't stop loving you.

You are my heart's treasure.

But I lost you.

Now I am coming back for you.

I am like the sun that gently shines on you,  
chasing away darkness and fear and death.

You'll be so happy—  
you'll be like calves running free  
in an open field.

I am going to send my Messenger—The Promised One.

The One you have been waiting for.

The Rescuer.

He is coming. So, get ready!

It had taken centuries for God's people to be ready, but now the time had almost come for the best part of God's Plan.

God himself was going to come. Not to punish his people—but to rescue them.

God was getting ready to wipe away every tear from every eye.

And the true party was just about to begin...

## **Questions & Prayer**

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1. Have you ever made a promise?
2. Why is God's promise important?

Dear God,

Thank you for promising to send us a rescuer. Thank you for teaching us about Him in the Bible. We are excited to celebrate Him! We love you!

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

# Memory Verse

<b>But the angel said</b>	<b>to them,</b>	<b>"Do not be afraid.</b>	<b>I bring</b>
<b>to you</b>	<b>good news</b>	<b>that will cause</b>	<b>great joy</b>
<b>for all</b>	<b>the people.</b>	<b>Today in</b>	<b>the town of David</b>
<b>a Savior</b>	<b>has been born</b>	<b>to you;</b>	<b>he is</b>
		<b>Luke 2:10-11</b>	
<b>the Messiah,</b>	<b>the Lord."</b>		



# Nehemiah and Ezra read God's Word.

Nehemiah 8



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How he rescued them from slavery. How he spoke to Moses and showed them how to live. How he brought them to a special land. How he rescued them—no matter what, time after time, over and over again—because of his Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love. They remembered how God had always, all through the years, been loving his children—keeping his promise to Abraham, taking care of them, forgiving them. Even when they disobeyed. Even when they ran away from him. Even when they thought they didn't need him.

Then God told his children something more...

I can't stop loving you. You are my heart's treasure. But I lost you. Now I am coming back for you. I am like the sun that gently shines on you, chasing away darkness and fear and death. You'll be so happy—you'll be like calves running free in an open field. I am going to send my Messenger—the Promised One. The One you have been waiting for. The Rescuer.

He is coming. So, get ready!

It had taken centuries for God's people to be ready, but now the time had almost come for the best part of God's Plan. God himself was going to come. Not to punish his people—but to rescue them. God was getting ready to wipe away every tear from every eye. And the true party was just about to begin...



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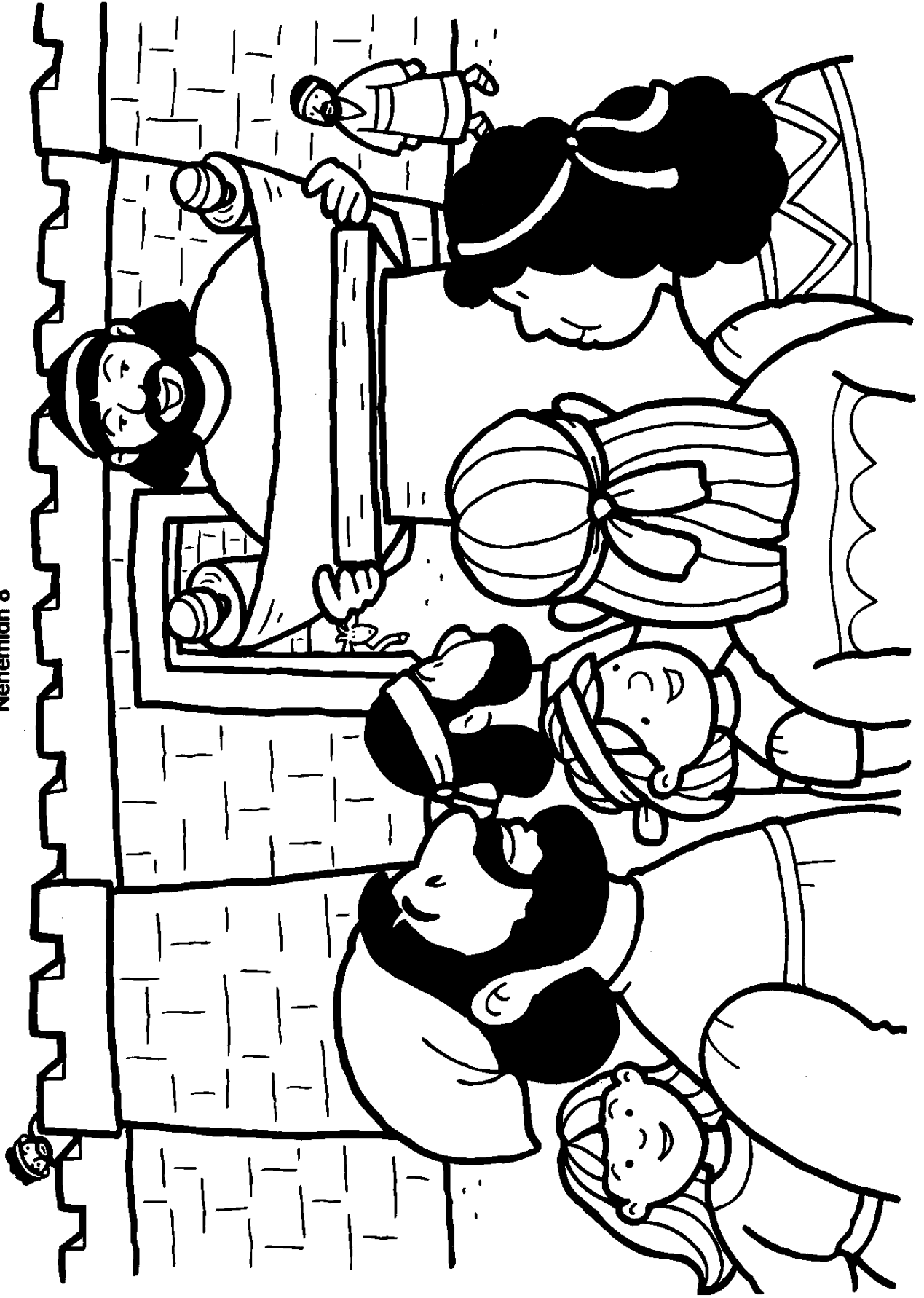
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