

# LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: THE RETURN

Ezra 1:1-11; Haggai 1:1-15; Zechariah 1:1-6; Luke 15:11-32; James 1:1-27, 2:1-13



Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

## PRAYER TIME

**Father God, thank you for prophets like Haggai and Zechariah who faithfully served you and brought a message of hope and deliverance to the children of Israel. May we learn from their example and be messengers of hope for those around us who are suffering. Forgive us for times when we haven't stood up for those who are persecuted or mistreated. May our lives and our actions bring glory to your name. Amen**

## TALK TIME

- Share three ways you can bring hope and encouragement to someone who isn't popular or well-liked. If the person you select is not a believer in God, this is a great opportunity for you to be a witness through your words and your actions.
- As a family, talk about the difficult times and/or suffering you have experienced in your life or have seen others encounter throughout life. How did you, or they, respond to the difficulty? What role, if any, do you think God played in the situation?
- You learned that worship was central to the Israelites' life of faith. Talk about how worship can be, or is, central to your life of faith. With whom can you have this conversation?

## WEB TIME

Type the word *exile* into an Internet search engine. What different sites did you find? Do all the sites focus on the same thing? Are there any disturbing photos of people in exile? Next, type in the phrase *homeless shelters*. How many different sites are listed? How do you feel about the need for so many homeless shelters?

## RITUAL TIME

Keep a journal of situations where someone (either an individual or a group of people) is mistreated because of race or beliefs, or simply because of being considered different from others. Pay special attention to those who come to their aid, if anyone does, and how they're able to bring hope.



## KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

**EXILE**

**DELIVERANCE**

**ESCHATOLOGY**

**PROPHET**



