

LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: EZRA AND NEHEMIAH

Ezra 3:10; 7:10; Nehemiah 2:17; 4:1-23; 6:1-13; 12:44-47



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

Gather together in a special place in your home. Sit in a circle and hold hands. Encourage each person to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of your family. Think of the people, practices, and events that make your family special. Remind everyone that God hears all prayers, both silent and spoken.

TALK TIME

- Ezra and Nehemiah worked to restore some ancient rituals to God's people when they returned home after the exile. What rituals and traditions have been passed down from generation to generation in your family? Are there items in your home that are linked to your family's history? If so, share the story behind them with the rest of your family.
- Ezra and Nehemiah felt it was important for God to be worshiped in the temple. Why is it important for your family to worship together at church? Why is it important for your family to participate in church activities?
- Ezra (a priest) and Nehemiah (a political leader) are examples of how religious and civic leaders can work toward the same goal. Can you do God's work at school, in your job, on the playing field, on the stage, and in your home? How can members of your family show their faith in activities that are not church related?

WEB TIME

Go to your favorite search engine and enter the phrase *church and state*. See if you can find some healthy ways that religious and political leaders are doing God's work together.

RITUAL TIME

Ezra and Nehemiah realized the importance of recognizing old traditions, but they also established new ones. What new ritual could your family begin this week? Maybe it's starting to pray together before meals. Maybe it's starting a "family night" once a week. Think of something you can all agree on and commit to doing it on a regular basis.



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.

TRADITION

RITUAL

REFORM

EXILE

JERUSALEM



