

Ezra--The Second Exodus

Ezra was a priest and a direct descendant of Aaron. He was a well educated priest and was called a scribe. Ezra was a man of his word and he was a man of prayer. He was only one man, but he was totally devoted to God. In this book we see two different returns from captivity.

The Past vs. The Future

Objectives: Understand how focus on the past can inhibit our forward progression.
Gain insight into our own faith.
Have fun with your family.

Number of Players: at least 3

Length: 15 - 30 minutes

Choose one person to be the past. Choose another to be the future.

Props: paper (stickies would be great), pens/pencils/crayons.

Give a stack of stickies/paper (at least 6 pieces) to each person and a pen/pencil/crayon.

Explain that they should write at least 3 things that happened in the past (the things can be either good or bad things).

They should then write at least 3 things that they want to happen in the future.

Then they will give their past things to the person chosen to be the past and their future things to the person chosen to be the future.

Set up:

Have past and future stand in the center of the room (instruct them that at your cue they should walk in opposite directions - leaving the room by opposite ends if possible).

Instruct everyone to keep their eyes on past and future (who are currently in the center of the room). "Remember, keep your eyes on past and future who represent the things that happened in the past and the hopes you have for the future."

Give the cue for past/future to leave in separate directions.

Discussion: Have everyone sit together and ask, "how easy or hard was it to keep your eyes focused on future while focusing on past?" Allow everyone a chance to share and give their own insights into what they learned. Explain how the people of Jerusalem had this same problem. They were focused on the past--how glorious the temple was that Solomon had built and they did not see the glorious work that God was doing in the rebuilding of the temple during the present time; and, the great work that was to come in the future. Ask, "What are some practical things that you/we can do to insure that we focus on what God is doing in the present and what He wants to do in the future?"

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.