



BIBLE CONNECTION

Nehemiah 8:1-12; 9:1-3
(pages 502-504)

CHARACTER WORD

Respect - To show a high or special importance to someone or something; honor one another

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can respond to God's word with respect through my attitude and actions.

MEMORY LINK

Psalm 119:162

"I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure."

(KBC Study Bible, page 648)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: No supplies needed

Option 2: Inflated balloons

BIBLE CONNECTION

Large eraser

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: KBC Study Bibles, music

Option 2: KBC Study Bibles, coins

Ezra Reads God's Word

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Today's lesson emphasizes the value of God's word as a great treasure. Many students may never have owned a Bible of their own. Some may never have even seen or held a Bible. Today, you have the privilege of introducing these young people to the Bible... God's word... **HIS**tory.

The Bible deserves respect because it is God's holy word. It contains absolute truth and is God's message to all people, which includes each of us. God's word is true, trustworthy and reliable. While it's good to treat printed copies of the Bible respectfully and carefully, the greatest way to show respect for God's word is to listen to, learn, live and love the words inside the book and the God who inspired them.

In today's Bible story, Ezra leads the people of Israel to hear God's word. Upon hearing, the Israelites respond with respect by committing to obey what God's word says. Even their actions reflect respect for God and His word. How well do your actions show respect for God and His word? May our examples point students to a life-long commitment to love and obey Him and give them a great desire and respect for His word... the great treasure!

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Today is Great Treasure Day! Can you think of something you treasure?
- Today's Character Word is respect. How can your actions show respect for someone or something?
- Why does the Bible deserve respect? (It is God's word.)
- How can you take care of your Bible and treat it respectfully?

GREAT TREASURE DAY

Prepare: Set KBC Study Bibles out for distribution.

I am so excited that this day is finally here! It is Great Treasure Day! Each of you will receive your very own Bible today! Many people have prayed for you to receive this Bible today. As your name is called, please come to the front to get your Bible. (Present Bibles to students as your group has planned.)

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



Sing songs of joy today to create excitement for Great Treasure Day! Even if you don't have time for a song today due to extra time allowed for presenting Bibles, you can play songs as the students enter or exit.

Consider both song choices by Group (LifeTree Kids): "Your Life Will Change" and "Ancient Words", and "Books of the Bible", by NorthPointKidsVEVO

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students

8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



GREAT TREASURE DAY

“RESPECT”

(page 2)

No supplies needed

Focus on today’s Memory Link

Have you ever seen anyone with a metal detector on a beach? What are they looking for? (treasure) In *KiDs Beach Club*®, we also look for treasure, not on a beach, but in God’s Word, the Holy Bible. God’s Word is the greatest treasure on earth!

I am so excited that each of you now have this great treasure! So let’s go exploring! Let’s find the page right after page 242, called “About the Bible”. This page explains how the Bible is organized and written. I hope you will read this page this week when you are hanging out 10 minutes with God.

Now, please go to page 648 in your Bible. We are in the book of Psalm, chapter 119. Find verse 162, our verse for today. Let’s read it together. (“I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.” Psalm 119:162) This verse tells us that God’s word is a great treasure. God wants people to read His word and know more about Him. As you read, you will find all kinds of great treasures!

Today’s character word is respect. You can show respect for God when you listen to, learn, live and love God’s word, the Bible, the greatest treasure.

Option 1 - BREATHE EASY

No supplies needed

Explain to students that the Bible is God-breathed. *That means, people wrote down the things God told to them. Let’s all take a deep breath and then say today’s Memory Link as many times as we can in one breath.* Have everyone do it at the same time. Let them try it a few more times on their own.

Variation: Lead additional rounds reciting books of the Bible (use the table of contents).

Option 2 - BALLOON BONANZA

Inflated balloon for each surf team

Give each surf team an inflated balloon. Instruct each surf team to work together to keep the balloon from touching the ground, gently tapping it up as each word of the verse is recited. Form new groups within each surf team and play again. For an extra challenge, give each team more than one balloon.

Psalm 119:162

“I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 648)

Bible 101

Invite students to turn to the tip-in pages “How To Use This Bible” (behind the front cover) and explain that each verse has an address and can be located using the book, chapter and verse. Show them the table of contents (page vi) and lead students to find today’s Memory Link and/or those from previous weeks’ lessons.

Teaching Tip

Every leader will need to help assist students in finding verses or pages as directed throughout the meeting. Students can also help each other. To keep good order, once they find a verse or page, train them to place their finger on the page and look at you. That way, you will know when everyone has found the verse and is ready to listen.

BIBLE CONNECTION

Teaching today's character word through gospel-centered Bible story



GREAT TREASURE DAY
"RESPECT"
(page 3)

Large eraser

Set the Stage

Ask 1-2 volunteers to share about a time they started to do something, realized it was wrong, and had to start over. Show the eraser. Talk about how erasers allow you to correct mistakes and start again. *In today's story, God's people were given a chance to start over. Let's see what happened.*

Tell the Story

Ezra was a scribe who lived as a captive in Babylon. His job was to keep careful records of all that happened. Later, Ezra returned to Jerusalem where he became a priest, teaching the people God's laws and leading them to worship and obey God.

After the broken wall surrounding Jerusalem was rebuilt, the people of Israel gathered together in an open courtyard, probably like a park. Ezra stood on a platform and opened the Book of the Law, God's word. Ezra read the scroll aloud to all the men, women and children who were old enough to understand. Everyone stood and listened closely as Ezra read the Law from morning until noon. That's a long time!

Why do you think the people stood attentively and listened to God's word as Ezra read it? They respected God and His word. They wanted to honor God and show Him respect by learning and obeying Him.

Listen as I read Nehemiah 8:5-6 on page 503 of your KBC Study Bibles. Tell me ways the people responded. (They stood up, said, "Amen," lifted up their hands, bowed faces to the ground, worshipped the Lord.)

In verses 8-12, it goes on to tell us the Levites (assistants to the priests in the temple) moved among the people, helping them understand the meaning of the Law. The people began to cry because they knew they had not respected God's Law. The leaders told the people not to weep, but to celebrate because this was a holy day.

As the people read more from God's word, they learned that God had commanded them to observe a special feast. In obedience to God's Law, the people celebrated the feast as a way to show respect for God.

Why do you think the people began to weep or cry when they heard God's word read aloud? (They were reminded of their sin and the many times they had disobeyed God's Law.) Think of a time you've felt guilty because of something you did wrong.

Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 John 1:9 (page 1355). *When a person confesses their sin and turns away from it, God forgives that sin and makes them clean, as if the sin was completely erased.* Show the eraser. Ask another volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 43:25 (page 772) to see what God thinks about confessed sin. *The Bible says that God blots out sin and does not remember it anymore. It's as if God erases the memory of that sin from His mind forever.*

As You Prepare

Before the session, ask two volunteers to each mark one of the following verses in their Bibles and read it aloud when called upon: 1 John 1:9 (KBC Study Bible, page 1355) and Isaiah 43:25 (page 772).

Great Treasure Day Tip

Since today is Great Treasure Day, consider having someone take video or pictures of this special day to share with your church. Seeing young people receiving Bibles in the public school is a powerful thing. With a little planning and editing you can also have a great promo video for years to come. Be sure to share your photos and video with KiDs Beach Club® by emailing them to photos@kbcmail.org or on social media by using hashtag #GreatTreasureDay and @KiDsBeachClub.

Application

The truth of God's word reveals hidden sin. But God promises forgiveness to anyone who confesses, or tells God, and turns away from their sin. Show the eraser. The people of Israel confessed their sin and God gave them a fresh start. You can confess your sins and get a fresh start, too.

Lead the students in a moment of silent prayer. You may want to play quiet music as they silently confess their sins to God and ask God for forgiveness.

Gospel Connection 

After confessing their sins, the people sealed their commitment to fully respect God by worshipping Him and obeying all the instructions in God's word. They promised to obey the Lord in everything.

God's word is powerful and deserves your respect. Your attitude and your actions toward God's word will show how much you value this treasure and respect God. Like the people in today's story, when you learn and obey God's word, your actions and attitudes will be transformed from the inside out.

Let's find another special page in our Bibles between pages 626-627, "God Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life". Encourage students to follow along as you use these pages as an outline to explain God's plan of salvation. Let them know they can share these pages with their family members at home tonight.

We want to help you understand the big message in the Bible. You can trust Jesus and invite Him into your life to be your Forever Friend.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Teaching Tip

Since returning students do not receive another Bible, think of a way to honor them if they brought their Bible from last year. It may be a sticker that goes on the inside cover or a special bookmark. Recognizing those returning ones who already have received Bibles will make Great Treasure Day just as exciting for them too.

Gospel Tip

The central theme of the Bible is God's redemption of people. Help students understand how all parts of the Bible point to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Allow plenty of time to talk about the tip-in pages "God Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life" (between pages 626-627). Since students will want to explore their new Bibles, give them time to do so without rushing them to the next activity. You may need to adjust your schedule to allow adequate time for gospel discussion and one-on-one follow up. Be prepared and follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups;
applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



GREAT TREASURE DAY "RESPECT" (page 5)

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- *Is there anyone who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become your Forever Friend? If so, let them go to the designated area.*
- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *Name a place you can read your Bible. (Be sure "school" is one of the places mentioned. Encourage students to follow school rules and read their Bibles at appropriate times.)*
- *Guide them to read the heading at the beginning of Nehemiah 9 on page 504. (The People Confess Their Sins.) On the eighth day of the special feast, the people gathered together again, and Ezra led them in a time of confession and worship. Confession of sins and worship show respect for God.*
- *Show them the tip-in pages "Spending Time With God" (between pages 242-243). Remind students that reading the Bible and praying every day will help them learn more about God and reinforce using the Hang 10 pages.*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles and highlight today's Memory Link.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week for a time of discussion.

Draw their attention to the scripture references on the Hang 10 pages. Point out that all the Bible readings this week are from Psalm 119. Tell students that Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and is all about showing respect for God's word by learning and obeying what God says. Challenge them to go above and beyond by reading all of Psalm 119 at home this week.

Pray

Encourage students to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead them in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for your students during the week.

Lord, thank You that Your word gives life and shows us how much You deserve our respect. Help us understand Your word and all the truths that are found in it – like a great treasure. In Jesus' name, amen.

Guide students to make a plan for what time and in what place they will spend time with God every day.

Teaching Tip

Be sure the Bibles are the focus for your Surf Team Time today. You may need to adjust your schedule to allow extra time in surf teams for students to dig in and explore their Bibles.

Bible Presentation Tip

Make your Bible presentation a special time, but factor in the size of your club. Calling up students by name one at a time can be negative for a large club. Students may get bored while waiting for their turn and cause disruptions. Valuable teaching time will be lost with a time-consuming Bible presentation. For large clubs, consider giving out Bibles by surf teams with the Surf Team Leaders presenting to each student individually within the small group. Alternately, give unopened Bibles to all the students. Then, upon your signal, they will unwrap their Bibles at the same time, generating excitement for everyone.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today’s Bible Connection and Character Word



Option 1 - MUSICAL BIBLES

KBC Study Bibles, music

Guide each surf team to sit in a circle. Give one person in each circle a KBC Study Bible. Explain that when you play music, they will pass the Bible around the circle. When the music stops, the Surf Team Leader will ask the person holding the Bible a review question. Continue until all questions have been asked.

Option 2 - COIN FLIP

KBC Study Bibles, coins

Guide surf teams to sit in a circle. Place one KBC Study Bible in the middle of the surf team. Open it to any page the students read from today. Players take turns gently flipping the coin so it lands on the Bible. If it lands “heads up” the person who tossed will answer a review question. If it lands “tails up” the person who tossed will select another player to answer a review question. Continue until all questions have been answered.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is the greatest treasure? (God’s word, the Bible)*
2. *What is today’s character word? (respect)*
3. *How can you show respect for God and His word? (listen to it; learn it; live it; love it)*
4. *Who wrote the Bible? (God inspired men to write down His words.)*
5. *Recite today’s Memory Link, Psalm 119:162. (“I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.”)*
6. *Who read the Book of the Law in front of the people? (Ezra)*
7. *Name one way the Israelites showed respect for God’s word. (they stood, listened, lifted their hands, bowed their heads, confessed their sin, and wept)*
8. *Why did the people weep/cry? (They realized they had not been obeying God’s word.)*
9. *What does God promise to do when people confess and turn away from sin? (forgive)*
10. *Why is God’s word a great treasure? (Answers will vary.)*

Teaching Tip

Many people are misinformed about whether or not it’s legal for students to have a Bible at school. Reassure students that it is NOT against the law for them to have a Bible in school.

Here’s what they can LEGALLY do with their Bibles in school:

- Bring it!
- Read it in free reading time.
- Share it with a friend (during non-instructional times).
- Use it to invite a classmate to Beach Club!

The last tip-in page in the KBC Study Bible (just in front of the back cover) contains more ideas on how kids can make Jesus cool at their school.



***“I rejoice at
Your word as
one who finds
great treasure.”***

Psalm 119:162

KBC Study Bible, page 648