

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

SCRIPTURE | Ezra 1:1-8; 3:1-6,10-13

SESSION SUMMARY

After seventy years, the first group of exiles finally returned to Jerusalem. God used King Cyrus to fulfill His promises to His people—the king even sent materials to help the people rebuild the temple. When they returned, God's people celebrated through festivals and sacrifices. Through their story, we see that God meets us in our brokenness and restores us. Here are the main points:

- God is faithful to His promises (Ezra 1:1-8).
- God restores brokenness (Ezra 3:1-6,10-13).

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- Has our family ever needed to rebuild something or helped someone else rebuild something? What was that like?
- On a scale of one to ten, how much does our family identify with our family name, our traditions, and where we're from? What do we think would happen if we lost those things?
- When has God fulfilled His promises to His our family through someone who didn't believe in Him?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Grab several plastic cups and two bouncy balls. One person (or pair) will try to stack the cups as high as possible while the others will try to knock them down with the bouncy balls. Set a timer for one minute. Count how many times the builders have to rebuild their tower. Not everything is so easy to fix as this fallen cup tower, but nothing is impossible for God. No matter how broken something seems, God meets us where we are and promises to restore us.