

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<< ZECHARIAH GAVE HOPE

Zechariah 13-14



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- **Mornings:** Pray for the leaders who serve in your city. Pray specifically for the mayor, city council members, police officers and firefighters, and others who serve the public in various ways. Ask God to protect them and give them wisdom as they lead the city.
- **Evenings:** Thank God for the good news of Jesus and how it brings us hope for the future. Reflect on this question: *How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope for our future?*

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY POINTS TO JESUS:

ZECHARIAH SPOKE A MESSAGE OF HOPE TO GOD'S PEOPLE. GOD WOULD ONE DAY SET UP A NEW AND BETTER KINGDOM WITH A NEW AND BETTER KING. **GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE BY SENDING JESUS. BECAUSE OF JESUS, WE CAN HAVE HOPE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY TRUSTING IN HIM.**

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Can God be trusted?

Yes. God cannot lie or ever be wrong, so we can trust whatever He has said.

>>> CONTINUE THE STORY AT HOME

ZECHARIAH

Dear Families,

On May 8, 1945, radio broadcasts and newspaper headlines announced that World War I had ended in Europe. Celebrations erupted all over the world as people heard the war had ended. After years of fighting, the people of Europe could celebrate this good news of peace!

God's people had been in exile 70 years when they finally received the news that they could return home. How do you think they felt? Back in Jerusalem, the people began rebuilding the temple, but some of the neighbors in the land didn't want them to finish the temple. God's people continued to face struggles, so God sent a prophet named Zechariah to give the people hope. **Zechariah told the people that a day was coming when God would give His people a new King and a new kingdom.**

God sent Zechariah to deliver good news for His people. **They could have hope for the future because they heard that God would be with them.** God sent Jesus to be good news for all people! Everyone who believes in Him can now have peace and a hope for the future because He is the eternal King!

Zechariah spoke a message of hope to God's people. God would one day set up a new and better kingdom with a new and better King. God kept His promise by sending Jesus. Because of Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins by trusting in Him.

Pray: *Thank You, God, for sending good news to us! While we were still sinners, Jesus died in our place to save us from sin. Help us to know Him and trust in Him as Lord. All who believe in Him can have hope and forgiveness of sins. Amen.*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES<<<

For Fun: Use colored paper or scrapbooking supplies to make "Encouragement Cards" for friends and neighbors. Write messages or Scriptures to give hope to each recipient. Distribute the cards to share good news and give hope to neighbors and friends. Talk with kids about how Zechariah's message gave hope to God's people and how Jesus brings hope to all who believe in Him!

To Serve: Work as a family to clean up an area of your city. Collect litter, rake leaves, or plant flowers to beautify the area. Afterward, talk about how God's people worked to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Remind kids of the promise God made to build a new city that brings all nations together and heals all of creation. We can look forward with hope for that day!



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

The person who trusts in
the Lord, whose confidence
indeed is the Lord, is
blessed.
-Jeremiah 17:7