



**KIDS**  
army for  
**JESUS**

DEVOTION



30

AUGUST  
2020

**EZRA 1**

## WHEN A HEART IS MOVED BY GOD

Due to their continuous disobedience, God gave the people of Judah and Jerusalem into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. They lived in slavery for many years. They must have been so desperate and wondering when God would come and rescue them.

Then the Persian kingdom defeated Babylon. God moved the heart of King Cyrus of Persia to allow the people to return to their land and rebuild the temple of God.

King Cyrus was neither an Israelite nor a believer of God, yet God used him to set His people free. God has the power to move anyone's heart to come and help you when you need help, even someone whom you least expect to help you.

The same way, when God moves your heart to help someone, just obey and do it. You never know that your help might be the answer to his prayer. Your small act might be a great blessing for that person. When God moves people's hearts, it gives hope, joy and courage.

### **Key verse:**

*Proverbs 21:1  
The Lord can control a king's mind as easily as He controls a river. He can direct it as He pleases.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, touch and move my heart so that I live according to Your purpose and calling upon my life. Amen.*



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31

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**EZRA 2:68-70**

## REBUILD WHAT IS BROKEN

The people of Judah and Jerusalem returned to Jerusalem and began to work on the temple. When they arrived in Jerusalem, each family voluntarily gave as much as they could for the supplies. Everyone willingly gave offerings and did not grumble and they were giving what they had because they wanted to contribute.

They worked as a team to rebuild the temple of God. They helped one another for the same purpose. Rebuilding something that's been destroyed requires teamwork. Rebuilding takes hard work, patience, encouragement and sacrifice.

Have you ever built a big aeroplane out of Lego blocks and it got knocked down and destroyed by a friend accidentally? Rebuilding it with your friend will be faster than rebuilding it by yourself.

If you want to restore a broken heart or relationship, ask God to be your teammate to work together on it. His love will heal your broken heart and His guidance will help you to fix your heart or relationship.

### **Key verse:**

*Psalm 147:3*

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, I surrender my broken heart and my broken relationship with my family or friends. Heal me and enable me to rebuild it. I know that with You, I can do it. Amen.*



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01

SEPT  
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EZRA 4:1-5

## SAY NO TO BULLYING

The enemies of the people of Judah and Benjamin found out that they were rebuilding the temple. They wanted to take part in it but their request was rejected. The enemies were not happy and they came up with many wicked ideas and actions to delay the progress of the rebuilding of the temple of God.

The enemies tried to discourage and intimidate the people of Israel. They even bribed the officials to work against them. They literally bullied the Israelites.

Bullying is an action of mistreating someone vulnerable done by someone who is stronger or more powerful. Obviously, bullying is not Godly. You and I are called to love others and not to bully people.

As God has shown us His mercy, let's live a life that shows His mercy by being kind to others, by standing up for the weak when they are bullied, by preventing bullying as best as you can through appropriate actions and by praying for those who bully and who are bullied.

### Key verse:

*Proverbs 10:12  
Hatred stirs up  
conflict, but  
love covers over  
all wrongs.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, I  
forgive those who  
bullied me in the  
past. I believe  
Your grace has  
healed me. I pray  
for those who  
bully to repent  
and for them to  
be able to feel  
Your mercy in  
their heart. Amen.*



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02

SEPT  
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**EZRA 7:6-28**

## GOD'S HAND IS ON YOU

Ezra was a priest and a teacher who had studied the Scriptures very closely. He was considered as a respectable man by King Artaxerxes who sent him a letter. In the letter he was telling Ezra to be in charge of the supply for the temple of God. He was entrusted to doing whatever seemed best with the gold and silver. Wow, what a privilege!

Ezra acquired some wonderful privileges in his life and he knew that it all happened because God's hand was upon him. It was God's power that was at work in and around Ezra that brought him success.

The hand of God usually represents favour and grace. It meant Ezra was covered in the favour and grace of God, and God ensured everything Ezra needed would be taken care of. That was the key to Ezra's success.

The key to Ezra's success can be yours too. The way to get the most out of your life is to have God's hand upon you. When the hand of God is upon you, you will fulfill His purposes in your life and you will be able to follow His lead.

### Key verse:

*Ezra 7:6*

*The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, thank You for Your words. Because the hand of the Lord my God is on me, I have faith that I walk with Your love, mercy and protection each day. Thank You that Your gracious hand is on me. Amen.*



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03

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**EZRA 9:5-14**

## GOD NEVER LEAVES YOU

Ezra was grieved and he wept because of the sins that the Israelites committed. Ezra was someone with power and authority among his nation. He actually had the authority to punish, judge or rebuke those who committed sins.

However, he prayed and confessed for all the wrongdoings of the Israelites even though he was not the one who committed the sins. He was grieved that the Israelites had sinned against God.

Ezra remembered that during their exile, God had been gracious and had provided them a place. Even though they were under the power of the Persians, God had not forsaken them. And in His time, God gave them freedom. God gave them a second chance and protected them.

Ezra knew that God would discipline His children, but God would NEVER abandon nor leave His children. Ezra's God is your God too! How blessed we are to have a God who is quick to forgive our sins as long as we confess and ask for His forgiveness. No matter what you think or how you feel, God will never leave us.

### **Key verse:**

*Psalm 94:14  
The Lord won't  
leave His  
people. He will  
not give up His  
children.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, thank  
You for always  
loving me and  
forgiving me.  
Thank You for  
never leaving me  
alone. Amen.*



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04

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**NEHEMIAH 2:1-8 & 13-16**

## CHRIST'S SELFLESSNESS

Nehemiah was a Jewish cupbearer to a king named Artaxerxes. A cupbearer was a high-rank official in charge of serving the king and he lived comfortably in the city. When Nehemiah received news about Jerusalem's wall being broken, he was so downcast. This made the king ask him what was bothering him. Nehemiah told him what had happened and requested his permission to go and repair the wall. King Artaxerxes granted Nehemiah's request.

When Nehemiah was in Jerusalem, he did not live as comfortably as he used to live. He was only with a few other men and he had to examine the wall of Jerusalem and figure out what he could do. He had to do it only at night to avoid any suspicion from others.

Nehemiah left his comfortable life in order to help the Israelites to rebuild the wall. He was a selfless man.

Sometimes, we might get tempted to be selfish but when God's love lives in our heart, it will not be that hard to choose to be selfless. Jesus Himself has shown us His selflessness. He came from Heaven to earth to sacrifice His life for all of us.

### Key verse:

*1 Corinthians  
10:24*

*No one should try to do what will help only himself. He should try to do what is good for others.*

### Prayer

*Dear Jesus,  
teach me to be selfless like You.  
Please guide and help me to be a selfless person to the people around me. Amen.*



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**NEHEMIAH 4:1-14**

## MATCHLESS DEFENDER

When Nehemiah was leading the people rebuilding the wall, there were some people who were unhappy with it. They were Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men from Ashdod. They hated them and made fun of them.

Nehemiah's reaction was praiseworthy. He was not scared, distracted nor discouraged. He kept his immovable faith and encouraged the Israelites to keep their faith in God who proved to be a matchless defender.

You might see that nowadays many people are mocking those who do the right things and supporting those who do the wrong things. There are always going to be people in your life who misunderstand you and don't like you while you do not even do something wrong to them. There will always be people who criticize you or judge you while you are actually trying to do the right thing.

Do not be discouraged when the world seems to oppose you just because you are doing something right. Have courage and faith in God.

### Key verse:

*Psalm 62:6*

*He is my rock,  
who saves me.*

*He protects me  
like a strong,*

*walled city. I will  
not be defeated.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, I  
find peace in  
You. I will not  
be discouraged  
with what the  
world throws at  
me. Rather I will  
put my faith in  
You as You are  
my matchless  
defender. Nothing  
can go against  
You. Amen.*