



JOURNAL PAGE

Key Passage:
Blessed is the man who
trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
Jeremiah 17:7

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 17 • Session 1

GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

Ezra 1

**CAN GOD BE TRUSTED? YES, GOD CANNOT LIE OR EVER BE WRONG,
SO WE CAN TRUST WHATEVER HE HAS SAID.**

King Nebuchadnezzar had completely destroyed Jerusalem. Many of God's people had died. Others lived in Babylon. Some of their children and grandchildren were born in Babylon and grew up there. But Babylon was not their home.

God promised through the prophet Jeremiah that the exile would last 70 years. At last, the time had come for God's people to go home.

Cyrus, king of Persia, had taken over Babylon. Cyrus made an announcement: "God wants me to build Him a temple in Jerusalem, so let all of God's people go back to Jerusalem so they can rebuild the Lord's temple. Anyone who stays behind should give the travelers anything they need—gold and silver, animals, and gifts for God's temple."

The exile was over! God's promise was coming true. So the people got ready to go to Judah. All their neighbors helped them by giving them gifts.

King Cyrus even brought out the dishes that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem before he destroyed it.

The leader of God's people—a man named Sheshbazzar—brought all these things along when the captives returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Christ Connection: God always keeps His promises. God chose to use King Cyrus in His plan to graciously deliver His people from exile. King Cyrus' action to free the people reminds us of Jesus, whom God chose to rescue sinners and bring us to our true home in His kingdom of grace.

My child has completed the Christ Connection on his/her own and has discussed it with me:

Parent Signature: _____