

Lesson 8 / April 28, 2024

God Use Me!

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 8

Focus:

God can use anyone to accomplish His plans.

ECHOES Focus:

That your students will cooperate with God in carrying out His plans.

Lesson 8

Bible Basis:

Ezra 7:6-10, 21-28

Lesson 8

Memory Verse:

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
—1 Corinthians 15:58

Students will brainstorm ideas for solving various problems and explore ways that God uses people to help accomplish His plans.

Materials:

Internet access

Every day, no matter where you are or what you do, you encounter situations that require you to decide how you are going to find a solution. Sometimes, the situation is simple—will you eat cereal or a bagel for breakfast? Do you watch TV or play outside? Other times, the situations aren't quite as simple—do you admit to doing something wrong, or do you try to cover it up? Do you apologize for hurting your friend's feelings or ignore them?

Listen to these scenarios and think about what you might do if you were in these situations (as time allows, give students the opportunity to share possible solutions to each problem):

- Your friend invites you for a sleepover on Friday night, but you have soccer practice every Friday night. What do you do?
- After basketball practice, you go back to the locker room with the team to shower and change. When you're getting dressed, you can't find your shoes. What do you do?
- You really want to invite a new classmate to come to your birthday party, but you've never talked to this person before. You're worried they will say no. What do you do?
- You're taking a test and there's no talking allowed. You're writing your answers when your pencil breaks. What do you do?
- You didn't do your chores after school. Your parents are upset with you and saying they might take away your screentime for the week. What do you do?

➤ **In each of the scenarios, was there just one solution to the problem?** (No, there were a lot of different ways each problem could be solved.)

➤ **What would you do if your idea to fix a problem didn't work?** (Try something different, get help from someone else, etc.)

When we're faced with a problem, it's important that we keep working to find a solution, even if that means we try ideas that may seem silly or crazy.

God has plans for each of us, and He uses all kinds of people and situations to accomplish His plans. Sometimes, the ways that God works may make sense to us, while at other times, we can be surprised by what God does. Today we'll meet a man named Ezra. God had plans for Ezra, and He used some unexpected people to help Ezra accomplish those plans.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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God Use Me!

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STEP 4 

Lesson 8 Focus:

God can use anyone to accomplish His plans

ECHOES Focus:

That your students will cooperate with God in carrying out His plans.

Lesson 8 Bible Basis:

Ezra 7:6-10, 21-28

Lesson 8 Memory Verse:

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
—1 Corinthians 15:58

Materials:

- Pieces of paper (1 per student)
- Pens/Pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

God's plan for Ezra was for him to return to Jerusalem so that he could teach the people about the Law of God. God's plan for His people was that they hear the Scripture, and He used Ezra to accomplish that plan. God used King Artaxerxes to provide Ezra with anything he needed, and he allowed Ezra to lead the Jews out of Babylon back to Jerusalem.

It might seem surprising that God would use a king from Babylon, someone who did not serve the God of Israel, to accomplish His plans. God can use anyone, no matter who they are, to fulfill His perfect plan!

Can God use you? Of course He can! It may not always seem like it, but you are an amazing tool that God can use to accomplish anything! At times, you might feel like you're too young, too small, not wise enough, or not experienced enough to be used by God. But God can do anything, and He can use you in any way He desires!

Our memory verse this week is from 1 Corinthians 15:58; it says, "Always give yourselves to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Think about the week ahead of you. What task could you commit to working on as you walk through this week? Is there someone you know who needs help? Is there a job that you could help get finished? Is there someone who needs your kindness and encouragement? Remember, God can use you in any way He desires!

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Give students time to pray and brainstorm various ways that God might use them in the week ahead. Encourage students to think through not only what they might do, but how they can best accomplish the task.

As believers, we can be open and willing to whatever God has planned for us. As we go about our days, our prayer should always be “God, use me!” This can help us remember to look for ways God wants to use us to accomplish His plan.

Encourage your students to put their papers where they will see them throughout the week. Whenever they see their papers, they can use it as a chance to pray that God will use them to accomplish His plan. Students can take note of how God uses them and share that with others so they’ll be open to being used by God, too.

Closing prayer: **Thank you, Lord, for the many ways You choose to use us from day to day. Help us to see how we can be used by You, and give us open and willing hearts to look for ways to share Jesus’ love with others. Thank you for the perfect plan You have for each one of us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

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