

**LESSON 6—April 11, 2021**

**Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:**  
Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant  
**Unit II: Prophets of Restoration**

**Lesson Titles:**  
**Confession and Correction**  
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)  
**Ezra: Faith-And-Action**  
**Preacher**  
(Townsend Press Sunday School  
Commentary)

**Devotional Reading:**  
Ezekiel 18:25-32

**Background Scriptures:**  
Ezra 9–10

**Print Passages:**  
Ezra 10:1-12

**Key Verse(s):**

[Ezra] said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens. (Ezra 9:6, KJV)

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[Ezra] prayed: "I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to lift up my face to you, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens." (Ezra 9:6, NIV)

**► Questions to Consider:**

1. What was Ezra calling the people to repent of?
2. Why were the men commanded to send away their wives and children?
3. What did Ezra publicly call the people to do, and what was their response?

**► Lesson Context:**

- The book of Ezra centers around God and His promise that the Jews would return to their land.
- Ezra went to Jerusalem to teach the Law of Moses to the people who had returned from Babylonian captivity and to help restore the spiritual life and Hebrew culture to Jerusalem.
- Upon learning of the Israelites' sins of intermarriage and idolatry, Ezra fell in humility before God and prayed for the nation.

**► Lesson Aims:**

**As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:**

- Contrast the people's need for repentance with their joyful response to God's Word.
- Believe in your heart that God's truth is eternal.
- Grow in your determination to serve God in your community and beyond.

► **Lesson Outlines/Key Points:**

I. **Acknowledging Disobedience (Ezra 10:1-4)**

**Key Point 1:** Ezra was grieved by the news of mixed marriages between the Jews and other nations.

**Key Point 2:** Ezra publicly called for immediate repentance.

II. **An Oath and a Proclamation (Ezra 10:5-8)**

**Key Point 1:** Ezra challenged the people to seal their decision by taking a public oath before the Lord.

**Key Point 2:**

III. **A Restored Covenant Relationship (Ezra 10:9-12)**

**Key Point 1:** The people responded to the proclamation and its demands and assembled in Jerusalem.

**Key Point 2:** Ezra commanded that the violators confess their sins and separate from their unbelieving wives.

► **Lesson Summary:**

- What Ezra did was necessary to ensure the preservation of the nation and to bring the people in line with the Word of God.
- To continue in a right relationship with God, believers must personally acknowledge and abandon the practices of a sinful lifestyle.
- Spiritual leaders and their followers must be governed and guided by the standards of God's Word.

**What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)**

1. Do you agree or disagree that the church has become more tolerant, or silent, concerning the practice of sin among its members? Explain why today's church may be hesitant to openly correct or address sin.

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2. Why does it seem difficult for some to accept the God-given authority of spiritual leaders?

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3. Why is it necessary for the church to teach its people how to deal with sin biblically? What examples can you give of an inappropriate response to sin in the church?

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**As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:**

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