

Lord. Watch over it carefully until you reach Jerusalem; there you shall weigh it out again and hand it over to the priests and Levites at the temple." So the priests and Levites packed the precious treasure carefully, and they and Ezra and all the people who were returning to Jerusalem, started from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month. They had to pass through a desert country where wild beasts roamed and robbers lay in wait for lonely travelers; but the Lord watched over them and kept them safe during the four long months it took to reach Jerusalem.

After coming into the city the little band rested three days; then they went up to the temple, and there the silver and gold and precious vessels which they had brought from Babylon were weighed again, to see that none had been lost, and afterwards they were given to those in charge of the temple. And Ezra and his companions offered up therein the temple a great sacrifice to God, as a thanksgiving for His protecting care during their long and dangerous journey.

### Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Ezra? 2. What did he ask of King Artaxerxes? 3. How did Artaxerxes treat Ezra's request? 4. Where did Ezra gather the Jews together? 5. What did they do there for three days? 6. Why did Ezra not ask for a guard of soldiers? 7. What did Ezra give into the care of the priests and Levites before they started? 8. How long did their journey last? 9. Who kept them safe? 10. What was done when they reached Jerusalem? 11. How did Ezra and his companions show their gratitude to God? 12. What is the Golden Text?

### Lesson Hymn

His call we obey,  
Like Abram of old,  
Not knowing our way,  
But faith makes us bold;  
For, though we are strangers,  
We have a good guide,  
And trust, in all dangers,  
'The Lord will provide.' Amen.

—Hymn 16, Book of Praise

### The Catechism

**PRIMARY CATECHISM—57.** Where do all our good thoughts and desires come from? The Holy Spirit puts good thoughts and desires into our hearts. **58. In what other ways is the Holy Spirit our Helper?** The Holy Spirit helps us in our study of the Bible and in prayer.

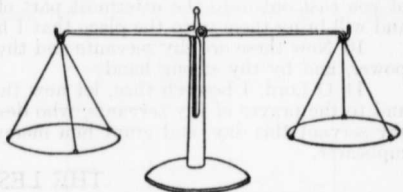
**SHORTER CATECHISM—107.** What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen*) teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen*.

### The Question on Missions

8. Who are first amongst the helpers of the Bible Society? The missionaries, both at home and abroad. Many of the translations have been made by missionaries. They know how necessary it is for their people to have the scriptures printed in their own tongue, if they are really to understand the gospel message.

### SOMETHING TO DO AT HOME

Scales are used by merchants so that customers may receive what is fair and just.



As you copy the drawing, ask God to help you to be true and honest in all your words and deeds.

**I Have Learned Today**  
THAT GOD IS MY GUIDE