

Chapters 5, 6

The prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the people in the rebuilding of the temple.

Despite opposition, the Jews kept on rebuilding the temple.

Dear God, please help me be
a person of encouragement for others

Chapter 7

Ezra was a scholar who loved to study the Law of the Lord. He was a descendant of Aaron.

The Lord moved the heart of the king of Persia to grant any request that Ezra made to help the Jews.

Ezra prayed: "Blessed be the Lord our God, for moving the king's heart to look favorably on the rebuilding of our temple."

Dear God, please move the hearts of
all government leaders to look favorably on citizens
who want to do good things

Chapters 8, 9, 10

Before the Jews left Babylon, Ezra had organized them to pray and fast for a safe journey.

When the Jews reached Jerusalem, Ezra dissolved any marriages that had been arranged with foreign women while the Jews were in Babylon.

Dear God, please help us to remember to pray for safety
each time we set out on a journey