



## Nehemiah 8: Ezra Reads the Law

### Supplies Needed

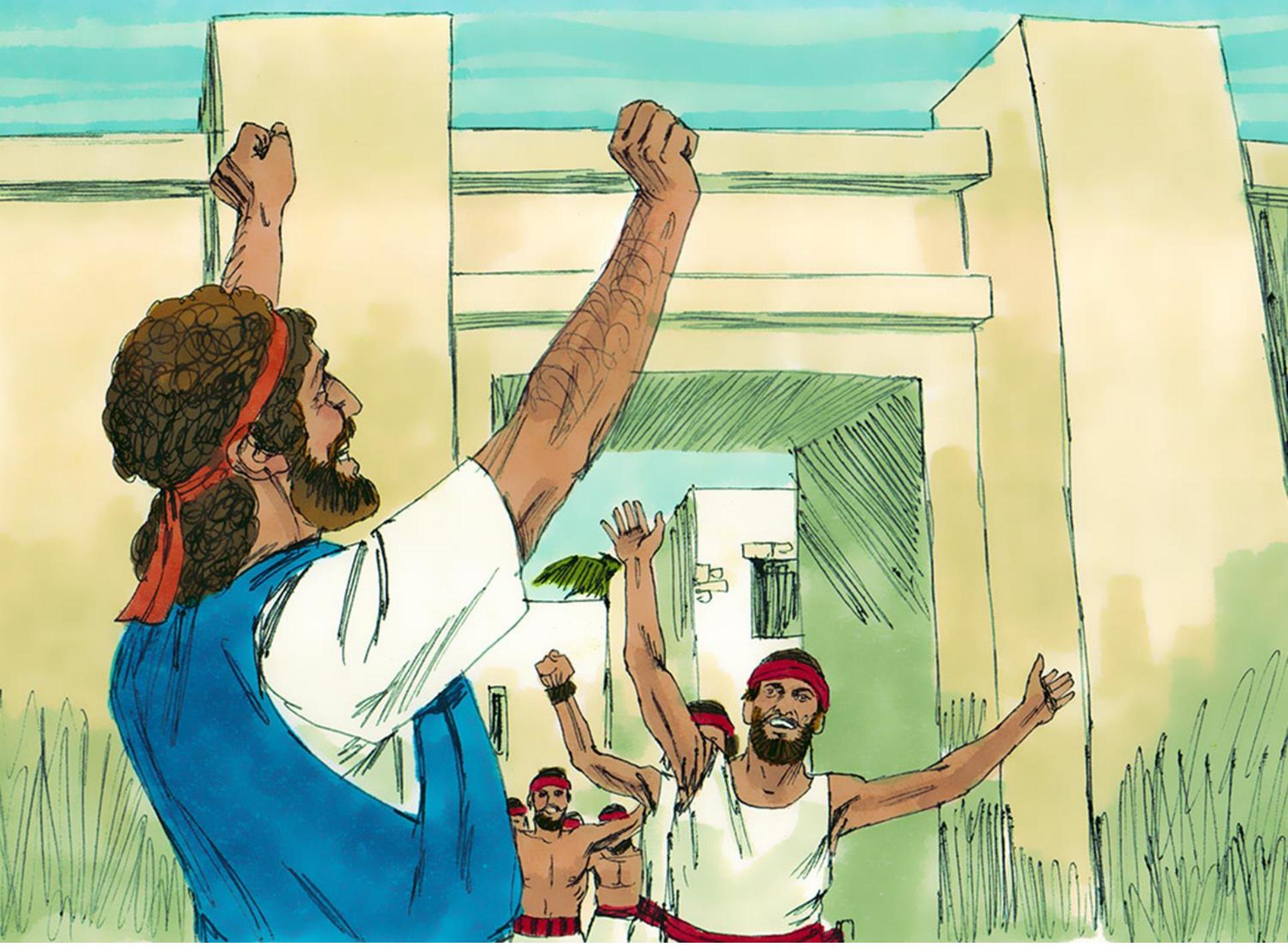
For each child you will need the following:

13 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")

13 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

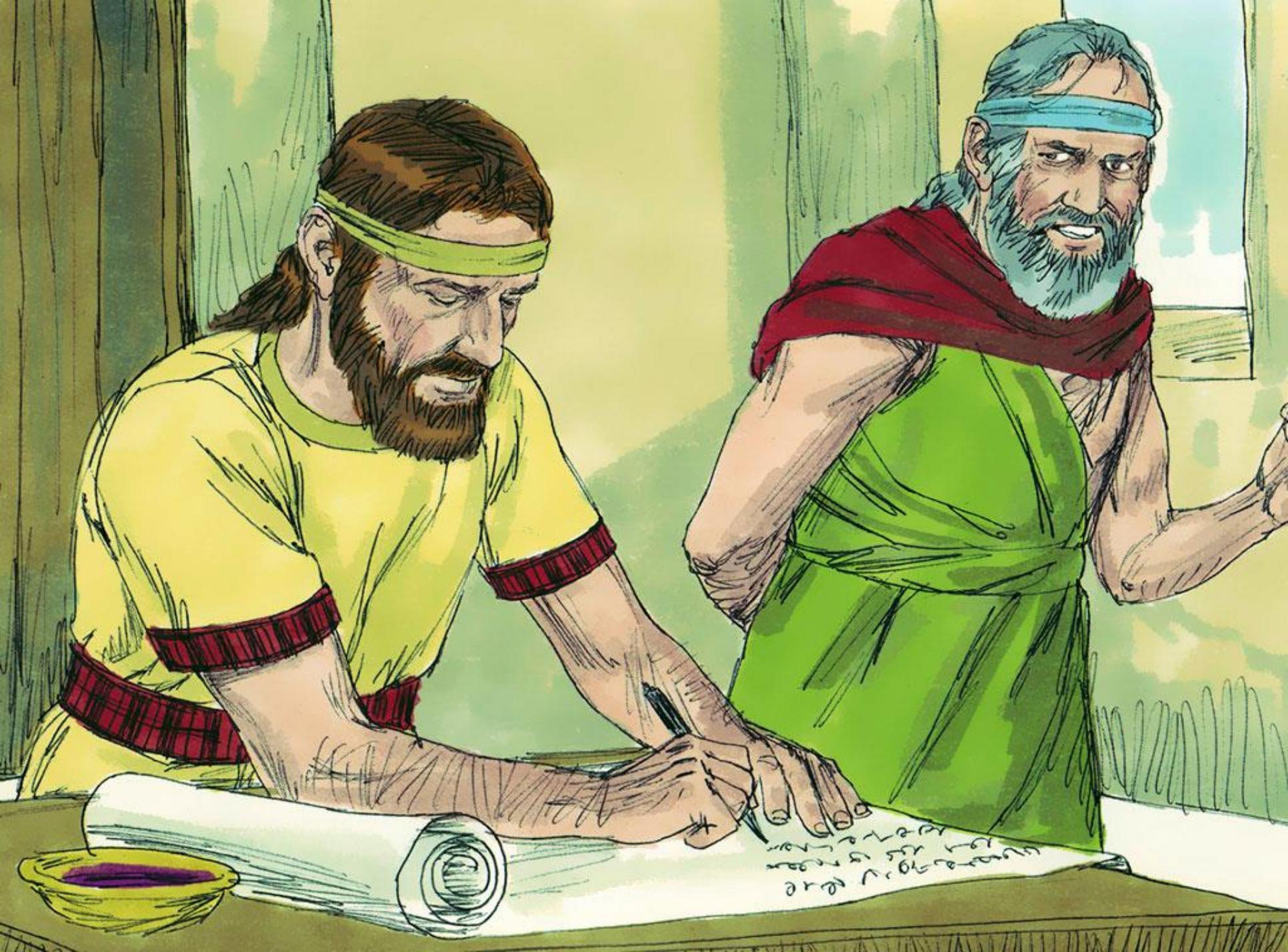
### Directions

- Print pages 2-27 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.



Nehemiah had come to Jerusalem to help the Jews rebuild the walls. Even though some people tried to stop them, the walls and gates were quickly rebuild – *how many days did it take? (52 days)*

The people knew the only way they could have finished the wall so quickly was with God's help. The city of Jerusalem was now safe from their enemies.



Nehemiah and Ezra loved God and wanted to obey Him. They wanted the people to obey God also. But the people who had returned from captivity did not know how to obey God. God's people had lived in exile for 70 years. They needed to be reminded how to live holy lives before God. As a scribe, Ezra was an expert on the law of Moses.

*What's a scribe? (someone who copied the Law of Moses onto scrolls)*

# Jerusalem City Walls



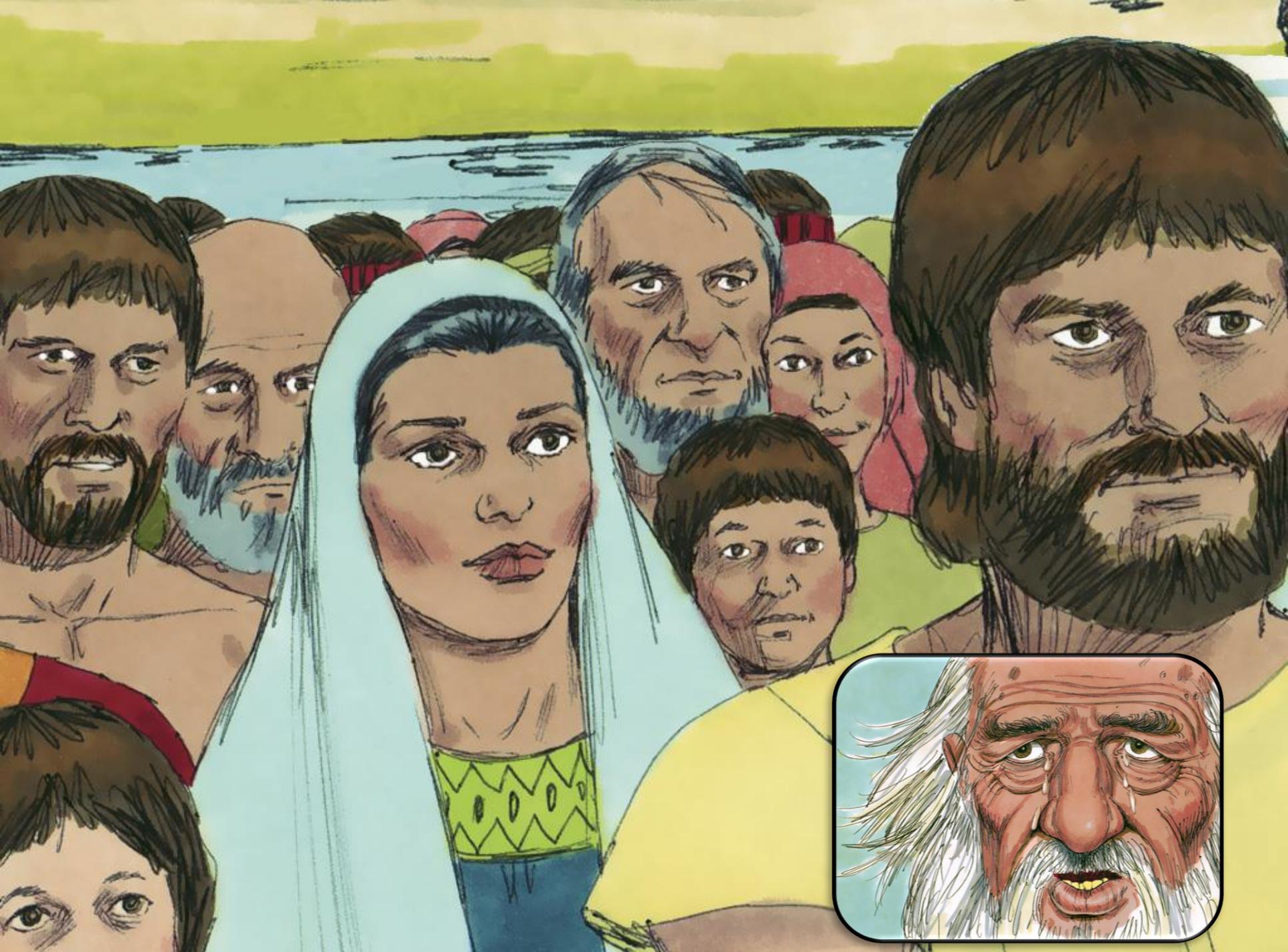
0 100m

So Ezra and Nehemiah had all the people gather in the open square in front of the Water Gate. All the men, women and even children came.

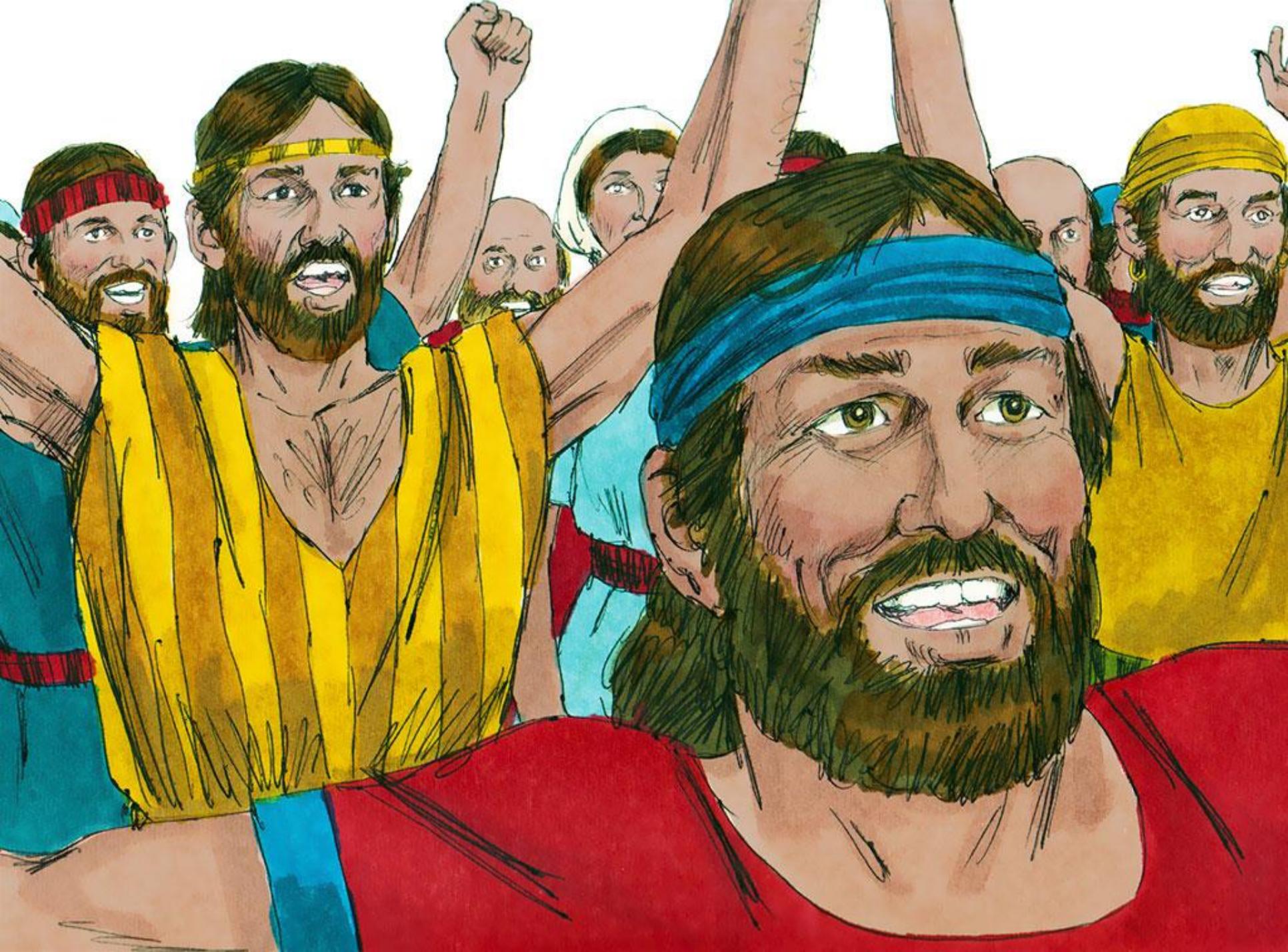


Ezra climbed on a high platform where everyone could see and hear him. And when he opened the scroll of God's Word, the people stood up. So Ezra read the Law from morning until midday while the people stood and listened carefully.

*Why would the people stand? (to show reverence [honor or respect] for God's Word)*



The people stood for hours listening to Ezra and his helpers teach them God's Word. They heard how God had cared for them for many years. The Israelites realized that they had not obeyed God and many people began to cry.



But Ezra and Nehemiah told the people not to cry! It was a day to celebrate! Now they knew what God wanted them to do. Now they could obey Him! Ezra told the people, “Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”



The people celebrated by eating together and sharing food with others. And they repeated this for seven days. Every day Ezra would read the Book of Law and then the people had a feast for a whole week.



Do you remember what Nehemiah's job had been before he came to Jerusalem? *(He was a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes)* At the beginning of our lessons on Nehemiah, King Artaxerxes had asked Nehemiah how long he would be gone. Well in the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah returned. He had been gone 12 years, but Nehemiah kept his promise to return to the king. However, Nehemiah only stayed long enough to get permission from King Artaxerxes to move back to Jerusalem and stay there. The king granted Nehemiah's request and Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem.