

Grade 6
ENCOUNTER Session 6: August 9
Exile, Return, Maccabean Revolt

Opening Prayer

Lord, when life gets hard, help me to trust you more. Help me to run to you when I'm struggling. Remind me of your love when I can't feel it. When temptations come my way, help me be strong. When I feel lost and alone, please pray with me and help me to more clearly see your Son Jesus' face and to hear his voice. As I grow older, help me be like a child in my faith, always running to my Father and trusting in his love for me. Amen.

Pre-Video Reflections

- Verse from last session, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you and before you were born, I consecrated you."
- The new verse to remember "the joy of the Lord is your strength"

Watch Video: Exile - Return - Maccabean Revolt (30 minutes)

Print Session 6 Handout. Follow along and answer questions that go with the video.

Questions and Thoughts

- What do you think was going through Daniel's mind when he was thrown into the Lion's Den? What would you be thinking?
- Esther and her people faced many challenges. What would you do if your government told you that you couldn't worship your God? Would it matter to you? How would you respond?
- Why was it so important for Ezra to reintroduce the Law and Word of God when the people returned from Exile?
- The Maccabees stood up against a larger, stronger army. Give some situations in modern culture we can show the same kind of courage the Maccabees showed.
- Take a look at the Bible stories on page 24. Which ones do you know?

Closing Prayer

*Teach us, good Lord,
To serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to ask for any reward,
Save that knowing that you do your will
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
- St. Ignatius of Loyola*