

CATEGORY
Biblical Worldview

TITLE
The Altar

REFERENCE
Ezra 3:1–6

• orange merit •

Ezra

LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 4



FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn that we should always worship God without worrying about what other people might think of us.

KEY POINT

We should worship God in all situations.

KEY VERSE

Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices.

Ezra 3:3

Note: Boys are not required to memorize the

Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- If we make God our first priority, we can be sure He will take care of us.
- We are afraid they may make fun of us.
- Fear, worry, our own plans, boredom.



MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

- Worship aids (optional)

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 4



KEY THOUGHTS

KEY POINT

We should worship God in all situations.

KEY VERSE

Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices.

Ezra 3:3



READ

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices. Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the LORD, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the LORD. On the first

day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, though the foundation of the LORD's temple had not yet been laid. Ezra 3:1–6

The people who returned to Jerusalem to worship God didn't have it easy. Enemies were all around. These enemies didn't want the city rebuilt. They didn't want the Temple restored.

The people rebuilt the altar first. It was used to offer sacrifices to God. The people's priority was to worship God.

The people knew that if they focused on God, He would rescue them from their enemies. They were not worried about what the people around them thought. They were determined to show their love to God.

We often worry about what others think of us when we worship God. We fear people will

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EZRA — Lesson 4

make fun of us. But God doesn't want us to fear what others might think or do. He wants our priority to be worshipping Him and enjoying His presence.

We also sometimes let things take our focus away from God. Sometimes our problems or plans distract us. And sometimes we may get bored. But, we must keep our focus on God, not on things.

Make worshipping God your priority this week by setting aside time each day to be with Him. When you worship around others, don't worry about what they think, but focus your worship on pleasing God.



REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- Why should worshipping God be the main priority for our lives?
- Why do some people worry about what others think when they worship?
- What are some things that distract us when we try to worship God?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You that You love me. Please help me to keep You my top priority. Amen.



RESPOND

Take time in your group to worship God. Encourage the boys not to be distracted or to worry about what others think, but help them focus on the presence of God.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A recommended plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at RoyalRangers.com. Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

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