

Leaving Home

The Jews had been in Babylon for 60 years. Most had never seen the land their parents and grandparents had come from. They had homes in Babylon. So most of the Jews decided to stay in Babylon and not move to Judah. Read Ezra 1:1–11. Why did some of the Jews want to go back to Judah?

Pretend that you are in one of the Jewish families in Babylon. Your father asks, “Do you want to move to Judah?” What will you tell him? Write down reasons not to move. Write down reasons you should move.

If your own family really does move, here are some things to do to make the change easier. Find out about the new area before you leave. What is special about it? Draw pictures or cut photos from a magazine or online printouts of how you would like to decorate your new room. Get together for a moving party with your friends before you leave. Get their addresses so you can write. Take a vacation on your drive to your new home. Look at maps to see what would be fun to do along the way. And begin praying that you will find a special new friend when you arrive at your new home.

Live It!



Ezra 1:1–11