



UNIT 17 | SESSION 3 | JANUARY 18-19, 2020

2s-3s Lesson

The Temple Was Rebuilt

Bible Passage: Ezra 4-6; Haggai

Story Point: God's people rebuilt the temple.

Key Passage: "I know the plans I have for you ... plans ... to give you a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11.

Christ Connection: Jesus is with us wherever we go.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

At last! God's people returned to Jerusalem, the home of their ancestors. God had given them another opportunity to live as His special people. They got to work right away, completing the foundation of the Lord's temple.

Many of God's people had been born in Babylon, but they had likely heard the stories of their parents and grandparents, stories of a life in the land God had given them. They probably heard of their families' mistakes-ignoring God, worshiping idols, and mistreating the poor. But the Lord had been gracious! He kept His promise to bring His people back to Judah.

Life in Judah wasn't exactly what they had imagined. It was difficult. Their national wealth was gone. The work of rebuilding the temple and the city of Jerusalem was hard. The land was desolate, and crops failed. Their neighbors opposed their efforts. (See Ezra 4:6,11-16.)

God's people were disappointed and discouraged. Rather than fight their enemies, God's people gave up. The temple of the Lord sat unfinished for 16 years. The people made excuses. "Maybe it's not time to rebuild the temple," they reasoned. If that was what God wanted, wouldn't He make it easier for them? (See Hag. 1:2.) God's people moved on to building their own homes.

The prophet Haggai stepped onto the scene and rebuked the people for their misplaced priorities (Hag. 1:4). He brought words from the Lord, commanding them to finish the work they started. God promised to fill the temple with His glory and comforted His weary people with this promise: “I will provide peace in this place” (Hag. 2:7,9).

God promised to be with His people and bless them—and not only them, but the whole world through them, keeping the promise He made to Abraham long ago. (See Gen. 12:3.) Through God’s servant Zerubbabel God would send His Son, Jesus—the greater Servant who is God with us.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

EXAMINE AND PLAY WITH PLASTIC TOOLS

(several plastic tools per class)

Display several plastic tools for children to explore. Talk to the children about how the different tools work and how they help to build buildings, including churches. Encourage the children to pretend to build a building with the tools.

SAY • In our Bible story last week, God’s people built the foundation, or bottom, of the temple. Do you think they used tools like these? In today’s Bible story, God’s people had stopped building the temple. Listen to the Bible story to hear if God’s people finally finished rebuilding the temple.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: JESUS LOVES ME, VIDEO: JEREMIAH 29:11)

Sing “Jesus Loves Me” and “Jeremiah 29:11.”

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Ezra 4 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is God's Word. It tells us true stories about God and His people. Today's Bible story is from the Old Testament Books of Ezra and Haggai.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: THE TEMPLE WAS REBUILT, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(no supplies needed)

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • God's people had stopped rebuilding the temple. God sent Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people to keep going. God was with them. God even used the King to make sure the people had everything they needed! God's people rebuilt the temple. Now they had a place to worship God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. Jesus gave us something better than the temple; He gave us Himself. Jesus is with us wherever we go.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the key passage marker at Jeremiah 29:11. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Watch the key passage song for an example.

SAY • "I know the plans I have for you (*point to temples*) ... plans (*display arms in front*) to give you a future and a hope (*rainbow arms from left to right*)" Jeremiah 29:11. God knows you. He knew you before you were born. He knows what will happen to you today, tomorrow, and every day of your life. God has plans for you.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Ezra 4-6; Haggai

Story Point: God's people rebuilt the temple.

Key Passage: "I know the plans I have for you ... plans ... to give you a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11.

Christ Connection: Jesus is with us wherever we go.

DELIVER LETTERS

(1 small tote or bag per group, 1 lightweight box per group, 1 envelope per kid)

Provide a bag or tote filled with "mail" for the children. Encourage preschoolers to take out one piece of mail and put it in the "mailbox." Tell the preschoolers that King Darius wrote a letter saying God's people could rebuild the temple.

SAY • King Darius wrote a letter saying God's people could rebuild the temple. God helped His people rebuild the temple. Haggai said God was with them.

SAND WOODEN BLOCKS

(1 smooth small wooden block per group, 1 piece of fine grain sandpaper per group)

Provide a wooden block and fine grain sandpaper for preschoolers to practice sanding. Retell the Bible story and allow each child to have a turn.

SAY • God's people rebuilt the temple. They used wood just like this to build a strong temple. God helped His people rebuild the temple. Haggai said God was with His people.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. "I know the plans I have for you (*point to temples*) ... plans (*display arms in front*) to give you a future and a hope (*rainbow arms from left to right*)" Jeremiah 29:11.

GOSPEL GEMS

(1 Bible Story Picture Poster per group, 1 Key Passage Card per group)

Provide small Bibles for the preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide preschoolers to say it. Open your Bible to Ezra 4. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers.

- God helped His people rebuild the temple.
- Haggai said God was with them.
- Because of Jesus, we can worship God anywhere.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card & Story Point coloring page (optional), 1 per child)

Two & Three-year olds may color the optional Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool Christ Connection with their child this week.