



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

## 4s-5s 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.

**Big Picture Question:** How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.

**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 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 praise God.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • God’s people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to praise God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. Jesus gave us something better than a building to praise Him; 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.

## LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

### (CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

**SAY** • God sent two men—Haggai and Zechariah—to tell the people to finish building the temple because God was with them. These men were prophets because they shared God’s message. *How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.* Jesus is a better prophet than Haggai and Zechariah because Jesus is God’s son. Jesus does not just tell us God is with us. Jesus *is* God with us.

## 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.

**Big Picture Question:** How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.

## STOP AND GO ACTIONS

(no supplies needed)

Invite preschoolers to spread out in their group. Name an action, such as jumping jacks, run in place, hop like a bunny, and so forth. Children must begin the action when you say go and must freeze in place when you say stop. Play several rounds changing the action each time.

**SAY** • God’s people were rebuilding the temple, but then they stopped. God told His people to keep building because He was with them. God helped them, and finally, God’s people rebuilt the temple.

## STOP AND GO BUILDING

(1 set of blocks per group)

Place piles of blocks in the center of your group. When you say go, direct preschoolers to start building, trying to build the tallest tower before you tell them stop. After a few minutes, say stop. Play again, prompting preschoolers to build faster.

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

## 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.

## REVIEW AND PRAYER

(1 Bible Story Picture Poster per group)

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Who told God's people to stop building the temple? (*their neighbors*)

What did King Darius say when his helper asked if God's people had permission to rebuild the temple? (*Stay away. Do not try to stop them. Give them anything they need.*)

Did God's people finish rebuilding the temple? (*Yes, God's people rebuilt the temple.*)

Do you ever try something hard and want to give up? (*Remind kids that Jesus is with us wherever we go, and He will help us.*)

*How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.*

**SAY** • Rebuilding the temple was not easy. Neighbors told them to stop building, but God sent two prophets—Haggai and Zechariah—to tell them to keep building because God was with them. God even used a king to help them. When they finished building the temple, the people celebrated! 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.

Ask your group for prayer requests and pray together. If you can, pray for your preschoolers by name. Encourage them to talk to God in prayer throughout the week.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.