



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

4th-5th Lesson

The Temple Was Rebuilt

Bible Passage: Ezra 4-6; Haggai

Story Point: God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.

Key Passage: "I know the plans I have for you"- this is the Lord's declaration- "Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11.

Christ Connection: Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 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: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think of a time when something they loved broke. How did they feel? Were they able to put it back together again?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN (VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME (SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, SFX: LEGO MUSIC)

TILTED TOWERS (Table, Legos of many different sizes, 2 Lego Plates/Boards)



FrugalFun4Boys.com

SAY • It's game time again! I need 2 volunteers - 1 boy and 1 girl. This game is called Tilted Towers. And no, it's not about Fortnite. It's about Legos!

What you have to do for this game is build the tallest tower! There's only one rule-each piece that you add must be larger (by counting the studs) than the one you last added. So if I start with this small one with only 2 studs then I could add this one with 4 on top and so on. What you should end up with is a very weird looking upside-down tilted tower. Whoever builds the tallest tilted tower after 2 minutes is the winner! Got it? Let's go!

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: LET IT BE KNOWN, VIDEO: O TASTE AND SEE)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: AMAZING BUILDINGS SLIDES 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

(no supplies needed)

Leader enters

Show the Amazing Buildings Slides one after the other when instructed by the Large Group Leader.

SAY • Hey everyone. Today the theme is about buildings, so I thought it would be fun to start off by showing some amazing buildings that have actually been built. If you know any of these, feel free to shout out their names!

Amazing Buildings Slide #1 - Empire State Building

Amazing Buildings Slide #2 - Taj Mahal

Amazing Buildings Slide #3 - The Great Pyramid of Giza

Amazing Buildings Slide #4 - Burj Khalifa

Amazing Buildings Slide #5 - Minecraft Ancient Metropolis (yes, made in Minecraft)

Those are all very cool! And they each took a long time (and many people) to make. Our story today is about God's people who were not only back home BUT also decided to rebuild God's temple that had been destroyed so many years before. Check it out.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: THE TEMPLE WAS REBUILT, CG: STORY POINT, CG: QUESTION 1, CG: QUESTION 2)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "The Temple Was Rebuilt."



SAY • God's people were excited about rebuilding the temple so they could worship Him. You can see they had one focus-God. When people questioned them, they kept on building so they could celebrate the one true God. God's people didn't allow others to discourage or distract them from their goal.

Not only did they keep their focus when they were building, they made sure God was the focus of the celebration when they completed the temple. They didn't pause to make a name for themselves. As soon as they were done, they made offerings to God and celebrated the Passover.

We see God's faithfulness throughout this story. The workers found God's Word on a scroll, God changed a king's heart, and God sent leaders to encourage His people. He deserves our worship and celebration.

Sometimes we allow ourselves to focus on things we think God should have done but didn't, and we miss out on the truth-that God keeps His promises. Can you think of a time in the last year when God was faithful to you? Were you thankful for His faithfulness at that time?

QUESTION 1: What does this story teach us about God?

SAY • We see God's faithfulness throughout this story. The workers found God's Word on a scroll, God changed a king's heart, and God sent leaders to encourage His people. God deserves our worship and celebration.

QUESTION 2: Why did God's people want to rebuild the temple?

SAY • God's people were excited about rebuilding the temple so they could worship Him. You can see they had one focus-God. When people questioned them, they kept on building so they could celebrate the one true God.

KEY PASSAGE **(CG: KEY PASSAGE)** **(Bible)**

Show the key passage slide. Open Bible and lead the kids to read Jeremiah 29:11 together.

SAY • Nothing was going to stop God's plan to rebuild His temple. Governor Tattenai questioned whether or not God's people had permission to rebuild the temple. God had a plan to show they had permission all along.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

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. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. We don't need a temple anymore. Because of Jesus, we can have eternal life with God forever.

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Ezra 4-6; Haggai

Story Point: God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.

Key Passage: "I know the plans I have for you"- this is the Lord's declaration- "Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11.

Christ Connection: Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

DISCUSSION

(Bibles)

SAY • God's plan didn't always make sense to His people, but God did everything for His glory and their good. The Lord is always in control.

- Why do you think we go to church?
- How has church helped you understand Jesus and His love for you?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Haggai 1. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Haggai 1:1-2. Remind kids that God used the prophet Haggai to deliver His message to rebuild the temple. This was an important message for God's people, and Haggai was faithful to deliver the message that would result in God's glory.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Haggai 1:1-2 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

- How did rebuilding the temple bring glory to God?
Help kids conclude that God's people were determined to rebuild the temple so they could worship God. Seeing the temple rebuilt showed God's faithfulness. Hundreds of years later, God would send Jesus to dwell among His people so they would no longer need the temple.
- The Bible tells us that we are God's temple. How should that impact the way we relate to one another or see ourselves?

Emphasize to kids that if we are in Christ, our bodies are the temple to the Holy Spirit. We should honor our bodies and treat others with respect. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 6:19-20.)

- Why is God the best foundation for our lives?
Invite kids to discuss how we can often be tempted to build our foundation on other things (relationships, popularity, etc.), but Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is the only firm foundation. All other ground is sinking sand. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 3:11.)

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(1 Key Passage Poster – per group, 1 Key Passage Word Search – per kid)

Distribute a Key Passage Word Search handout and a pencil to each kid. Encourage the kids to find words from the key passage and today's Bible story. Kids may take home the paper if they don't finish the activity in KidCity.

HARD WORK MATCHES

(1 set of Hard Work Matching Cards per group)

Distribute the Hard Work Matching Cards among the kids so each player has someone else in the group with the match. Make sure kids read their job but keep it a secret.

On your signal, kids must move around the group silently and find their matching partner by only using motions to describe what their hard work action is. Matching partners must complete their action and then take a seat.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

If time allows, have kids complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Older Kids Activity Page, 1 per kid)

Hand each 4th-5th grade kid an Older Kids Activity Page and encourage them to do it at home with their family this week.

OPTIONAL TAKE HOME:

(Preteen Learner Guide Option)

For 5th Graders that would like some additional God Time this week.