

The Temple was Rebuilt- May Wk 3- Elementary

Bible Passage:
Ezra 4-6; Haggai

STORY POINT:
God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.

Key Passage:
Jeremiah 29:11- For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

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

Watch the Bible story video "The Temple was Rebuilt" posted May 17th on

www.theparksa.org/family-lessons/

Meal Time Family Discussion Questions:

- To which city did God's people return? (*Jerusalem, Ezra 1:2*)
- Who was the king of Persia when God's people began rebuilding the temple? (*Darius, Ezra 4:24*)
- What festival did the Jews celebrate when the temple was complete? (*Passover, Ezra 6:19*)
- How did building the temple bring glory to God? *Guide the kids to understand that the temple was meant to be a place where God's people worshiped Him. True worship of God glorifies Him. Additionally, enemies were trying to prevent them from finishing, so by overcoming those obstacles, God's people showed God's power to support and guide them.*
- The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit lives inside of Christians. How does this change our behavior? *Help the kids see that everyone is made in God's image. We ought to respect one another and ourselves. We should treat each other with dignity, compassion, and love. Because we are vessels of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to love with God's love.*
- How can you encourage someone who is suffering and ready to give up hope? *Explain that we can offer encouragement from God's Word. Someday, Jesus will return to restore the whole earth and provide a perfect place for us to live and worship Him forever. We face difficult times with hope because of Jesus' promises.*
- Say •**God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.** They almost quit, but God sent prophets like Haggai to encourage them to keep going. Thankfully, now that Jesus has come, the temple isn't necessary. We can meet with God anywhere simply through prayer!

Family Activities:

Option 1: Message from the prophets

Instruct the family to sit down in a line, each facing forward. Give the kid at the front of the line a piece of

paper and a pencil. Write *BIBLE* on a piece of paper and give it to the kid at the back of the line. The person at the back of the line will then trace with his finger the letter B on the back of the kid in front of him. The second kid will then trace the letter she felt onto the back of the kid in front of her and so on down the line. The first kid in the line will write the letter he feels on the piece of paper. Continue this way until the first kid writes all the letters. Did the kids communicate and write the word *BIBLE* successfully?

SAY • Was it hard to decipher the message just one letter at a time? In our story today, we will hear about a prophet named Haggai. Thankfully God didn't communicate with Haggai just one letter at a time! God's message to His people in today's story would encourage them to do something hard.

Option 2: Shaving cream memory verse

Students will practice their memory verse by smoothing down a very thin layer of shaving cream on an outside window or the bottom of a plastic tub or even a baking sheet. They will write key words and phrases with their finger from Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Have them write the words "hope" and "future" and "plans". If they have enough space, they can write the entire verse. Have a discussion with them about how the verse makes them feel about God's thoughts towards them.