

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2026

Unit 1, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

When God is the center of our worship, we can experience Him more deeply, remain faithful, and foster gratitude.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Worship matters because it's at the very heart of our relationship with God. When we gather to worship, we are responding to God's greatness, goodness, and love for us. Through worship, we acknowledge that Jesus alone is worthy of our praise and that our lives are meant to be lived for His glory. We are not only expressing gratitude for what God has done, but we are also growing in our trust for what He will do.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to live out his or her faith.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Ezra 2:68–3:13

Live It Out: Encourage your child to sing and praise God. Play music in the car while driving or at home while working. Let your child hear you sing, and he will sing along.

The people in Jerusalem wanted to rebuild the temple. They decided how they could help.

Some helped by giving money to the workers. Others gave food, drink, and oil to the workers who brought big logs from cedar trees to Jerusalem to build the temple.

The workers were busy working on the temple. After they finished the first part of the temple, the people celebrated. The church helpers put on their special clothes and brought their trumpets and cymbals. As the church helpers played music, the people sang to God. They thanked Him. The people sang, "God is good. God loves us."

Everyone was so happy that the church was being rebuilt! Some people shouted joyfully. Other people cried as they celebrated. Everyone around Jerusalem heard the sound, and they knew that the people were thanking God on this special day.

KIDS

Scripture: Ezra 2:68–3:13

Live It Out: Remind your child that the Book of Psalms is a book of songs. Help your child memorize Psalm 95:6 and set the words to music. Sing this song to worship God.

God's chosen people, the Israelites, were finally returning home from exile in Babylon.

When the Israelites arrived in Jerusalem, the people gave what they could to help rebuild the temple so they would have a place to worship God.

Men were chosen to build the altar so that burnt offerings could be offered to God, just as it was written in God's law.

The people gave money, food, drink, and oil to the helpers who were bringing supplies and working on the temple.

When the foundation of the new temple was finished, the people gathered for a special ceremony. The people let out a loud shout of praise to the Lord for the foundation of the temple being laid. The shouting was so loud that it could be heard far away.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Ezra 3

- How can you make worship a priority, especially if you're facing challenges or uncertain circumstances?
- Where is God asking you to "begin the work," even if the results aren't immediate or easily seen?
- What things in your life—small beginnings or first steps—can you thank God for?

Live It Out:

Talk to your student about ways he or she can intentionally express gratitude in a public or group setting this week, such as on social media or in a conversation at school. Encourage your student to highlight God's ongoing work in his or her life, and then challenge yourself to do the same through a social media post or a conversation with coworkers.