

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE // // // // // // // // // //

Bible Reference: Ezra 4-6

Date: 1/25/26
2nd Service

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

Memory Verse:
“Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us.”
Isaiah 25:9

Big Picture Question:
How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

Christ Connection

- 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. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

Schedule

- **Welcome/ Intro Activity**.....5 minutes
- **Kids Worship @ 11:00**.....15-20 minutes
- **Circle Time and Bible Story**.....10 minutes
- **Movement Activity**.....10 minutes
- **Craft**.....5-7 minutes
- **Music**.....5 minutes
- **Global Partner Feature**.....5-7 minutes
- **Prayer and Bible Verse**.....10 minutes
- **Snack/ Discussion Time**.....5-7 minutes
- **Additional Activities**.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

We are so grateful for YOU and all the ways you love and serve the children and families of LEFC! As we continue into 2026, our prayer is that you will be encouraged by how you see God working in your life and the lives of people around you!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

Like many projects, rebuilding the temple began with enthusiasm and purpose, but eventually the work stopped. Upon their return from exile, God's people were excited about rebuilding the temple and having a place to worship their God. Eventually their passion for rebuilding diminished due to the opposition they faced from their enemies. Instead, the people turned their efforts to work on their own dwellings.

God used the prophet Haggai to remind His people of the importance of rebuilding the temple. Specifically, the prophet asked the people why their houses were completed and adorned beautifully when the house of the Lord lay in ruins. Because of the encouragement of the prophet, the people returned to rebuilding the temple. This time, they would persevere through all of the challenges to complete the rebuild.

So why was the rebuilding of the temple so important for the people of God who had returned from exile? For them, the temple was the place where the presence of God dwelt among them. Following the Exodus, God's manifest presence was experienced by His people in a number of ways. He dwelt with His people in the cloud and fire that guided and protected the Israelites on their journey. He dwelt with His people in a movable tabernacle where they were able to worship. And eventually, God dwelt with His people in Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. When the temple was destroyed, it was symbolic of God removing His presence from His people. When God's people returned, the rebuilding of the temple demonstrated God was with His people, inviting them to return to Him in prayer and worship (2 Chronicles 6:36-39).

Today, we are reminded that our God does not dwell in a house made by the hands of people. When Jesus died on the cross, a symbolic act occurred in the temple. At the moment of Jesus' death, the curtain in the temple separating the people from God's presence split from top to bottom. The splitting of the curtain demonstrated our new reality that Jesus' death and victory over sin and the grave gives us direct access to the Father. Remind kids that God desires to be with them, and through faith in Christ, believers are promised His presence forever.



JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

When God's people first came back from exile, they were excited to rebuild the temple. They wanted a place to worship God again. But after a while, the work stopped. Their enemies discouraged them, and the people lost motivation. Instead of rebuilding the temple, they focused on building their own houses.

God sent the prophet Haggai to remind the people what really mattered. Haggai asked why their own homes were finished and decorated while God's temple was still broken down. His message encouraged the people to start rebuilding again. This time, they didn't give up, even when things were hard, and they finished the temple.

Rebuilding the temple was important because it showed that God was with His people. In the past, God had shown His presence in different ways—through a cloud and fire during the Exodus, in the tabernacle where the people worshiped, and later in Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. When the temple was destroyed, it showed that God's people had been separated from Him. Rebuilding it showed that God was welcoming them back and inviting them to pray and worship Him again.

Today, God does not live in a building made by people. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple that separated people from God was torn in two. This showed that because of Jesus, we can come directly to God. Through faith in Christ, God promises to always be with His people.



OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Display the Big Picture Question Poster within view of children. Hide play money under a pile of blocks. Encourage children to seek and find the money hidden under the “rubble.” Once all the money has been found, hide again and repeat play. Review the big picture question and answer as children play.
- SAY I’m so glad you are here today! You found a lot of money hidden under the “rubble.” In our Bible story today, a king sent a letter telling someone to give the people money so they could keep building the temple. God’s people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Our big picture question and answer asks, How did God fix what sin broke? God sent Jesus.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Gather children at the circle time carpet. Encourage the children to think of things that people build. Draw these things people build on the white board or write them so that children can watch as the list grows.
- SAY People build all kinds of things, including buildings. In our Bible story today, we will learn about a special building God’s people built. God’s people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Listen carefully to learn how God’s people rebuilt the temple.

Bible Story

- God’s people were happy to be home. They started building a special house for God called a temple. They made the bottom part first. But some people nearby did not want them to build it and made them stop. God did not want them to stop. He sent a man named Haggai to tell them, “Keep building the temple. God is with you!” So, the people started building again. A leader in Jerusalem asked God’s people if they had permission to build the temple. The people said yes. Tattenai wrote a letter to King Darius. The king looked at his papers and saw that another king named Cyrus had already given them permission. So, King Darius told Tattenai, “Let them finish building the temple. Give them money to help! No one should stop them.” The people were so happy! They worked hard and finished the temple. Then they had a big party and thanked God.





Christ Connection

- 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. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

Review Activity

- Have the kids sit in a circle. Lead them in tapping a steady beat as you pass the small Bible story picture around the circle. Stop tapping the beat suddenly. Ask a question to the child who is holding the picture, or ask the group to answer together.
- Sample Questions:
 - What did God's people want to build? A Temple
 - Which part did they build first? The bottom
 - Did God want his people to stop building the temple? No
 - What did Haggai say to the people? "Keep building the temple! God is with you!"
 - Which king gave the people permission to build? King Cyrus
 - Which king gave the people money to build the temple? King Darius
 - What did the people do when they were done building the temple? They had a party and thanked God
- SAY You all were so smart to remember the answers to these questions! God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth. When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Make three piles of blocks on the floor. Group the children into small groups around each pile of blocks. Start a "Ready, Set, Go" race and see which group can make a tower with the blocks the fastest without knocking them over. Repeat play as time allows.

SAY The people had not finished the temple because some of their neighbors wanted them to stop building. God sent Haggai to tell them to finish it. Once they started building again, Tattenai wondered if they even had permission to build it. He wrote to the king who told him that not only did they have permission, Tattenai needed to give them some money so they could finish building the temple. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Once they finished, they had a celebration and thanked God for the temple.





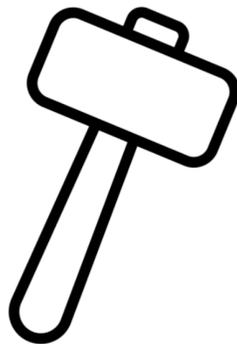
Craft

5-7 minutes

Distribute the “Rebuilding the Temple” craft sheets to the children. Place glue sticks and brown and grey construction paper squares on each table. Encourage the children to glue the brown squares to the hammer handle and the grey squares to the hammer head.

SAY You made very strong hammers today, everyone! What could we use hammers to help us build? [Allow responses] God’s people began rebuilding the temple, but they stopped because their neighbors did not like what they were doing. So, they started building houses until the prophet Haggai came to them and said, ‘Keep building. God is with you.’ God wanted His people to obey Him and keep Him first. The people started building again. God’s people rebuilt the temple to worship Him.

Rebuilding the Temple



Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today’s activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month’s Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included.





Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, we are thankful that You saved us by sending Your Son, Jesus, to earth. We believe that You are always with us. Help us worship You everyday with our words, actions, and thoughts. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Read the key passage aloud. There will be a bin of blocks on the counter with the passage words written on them. Help the children stack the blocks in order of the key passage. Refer to the Key Passage Poster as needed.
- SAY Great job building a tower with the key passage! While God's people were trying to rebuild the temple, they trusted God to help them when their neighbors tried to stop them. God was with His people and helped them build the temple! God did what He said He would do, because God always keeps His promises.

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made God's people happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who told the people to keep building the temple? (Haggai)
4. Why did the people stop building the temple? (They were discouraged when their neighbors didn't want them to rebuild it; they built their own homes first)
5. The temple was a place to worship God. Where do we go to worship God today?(When we trust in God, we can worship Him anywhere because Jesus is with us wherever we go.)

Note: Explain to children that Christians can worship God anywhere, but that God also wants them to gather in churches to worship with other believers.

6. How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

SAY God's people began rebuilding the temple but stopped when their neighbors got upset. God sent Haggai to encourage the people to keep building. King Darius said God's people had permission to finish the work. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. When they were done, they celebrated and thanked God.





Additional Activities

As Needed

Build the Temple with Blocks

- Gather several blocks or invite children to join you in the play area. Set the Bible Story Picture Poster where it can be easily seen. Use long blocks to make a base for the temple. Stack blocks to build the walls. Add a roof with flat blocks or a piece of paper. Use smaller blocks to make an altar. Celebrate the finished temple. Rebuild the temple as interest allows.
- **SAY Amazing!** You all built a wonderful temple. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. Christians can worship God anywhere, but they gather in churches to worship God together. **What are some ways we worship God at church?** [Allow responses.] 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. **When we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.**

Deliver Messages

- Collect the strips of paper from your bin, which have simple messages such as hop like a bunny, clap your hands, turn around, touch your nose, and stomp your feet. Fold the paper strips in half and place them in a basket. Choose one child to be the "messenger." Ask the messenger to pick a paper from the basket. Whisper the message to the messenger. Prompt the messenger to say the message out loud. Allow children to take turns being the messenger until everyone gets an opportunity.
- **SAY You all are amazing messengers!** God sent a messenger named Haggai to encourage God's people. Haggai reminded the people that God was with them. So, the people started building again. God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. The people celebrated and thanked God because His temple was finally finished.





Find the Hidden Money

INSTRUCTIONS: King Darius told Tattenai to give God's people money to finish rebuilding the temple. Find and circle the seven bags of money.



NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT



Rebuilding the Temple

Ezra 4-6; Haggai 1-2

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

CHRIST CONNECTION: Long ago, people built a temple to meet with God. We do not need to go to a temple anymore to be close to God because God sent Jesus to be with us always.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. We waited, and He saved us.
Isaiah 25:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How did God fix what sin broke? God sent Jesus.

Scan the QR code for resources to use at home!





**How did God
plan to fix what
sin broke?
God planned to
send Jesus.**

Hop like a bunny Stand on one foot

Clap your hands Touch your head

Turn around Close your eyes

Touch your nose Flap like a bird

Stomp your feet Spin around

Wave your hands Smile really big

High Five Sit down

Touch your toes Give a salute

Rebuilding the Temple

