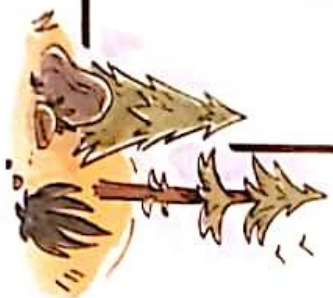


Get the Captives Home

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the maze to get God's people home.

START



FINISH

Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 17 • Session 2 The Captives Came Home

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God kept His promise to bring His people home.
- King Cyrus said God's people could go back to their land.
- Zerubbabel led God's people home.
- God's people worked together to build the foundation of the temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

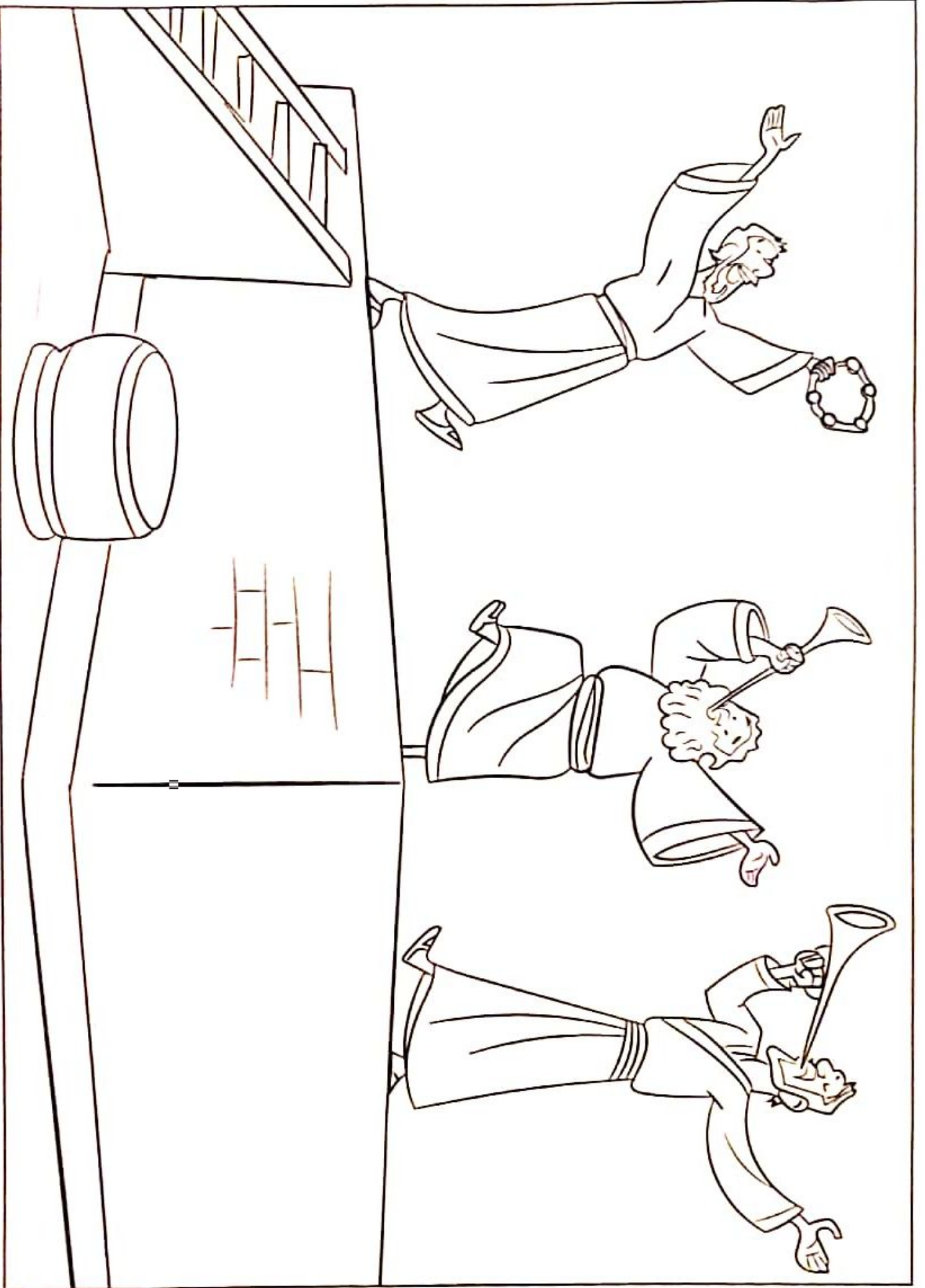
- Read Jeremiah 29:10. How many years did the prophet Jeremiah say God's people would be in Babylon? After how many years did God bring His people home?
- Why was it important that God's people fixed the temple?
- How is the home Jesus is preparing for His people better than any earthly home?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Go on a family hike. Pack a lunch and some drinks. As you walk, talk about what it must have been like for God's people to travel home.

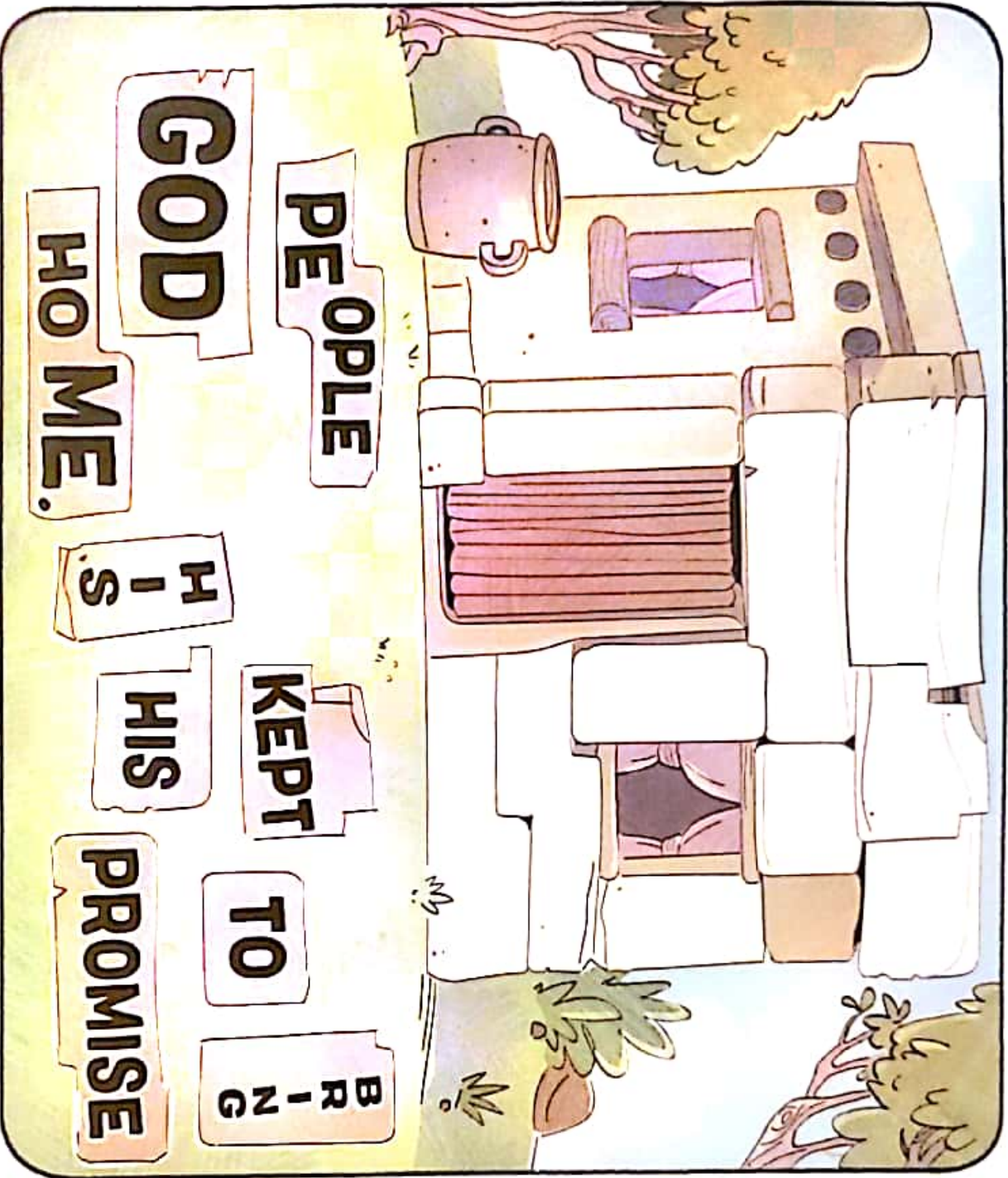


DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP



Build a Promise

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the shape of the different blocks to put the story point in the correct order.



GOD

PEOPLE

HO ME.

H I S

HIS

KEPT

TO

BR I NG

PROMISE

Younger Kids Activity Pages

Unit 17 • Session 2

The Captives

Game Home

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God had King Cyrus send the Jewish people home.
- Zerubbabel led God's people to Jerusalem.
- The people began rebuilding the temple when they arrived.
- God kept His promise to bring His people home.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

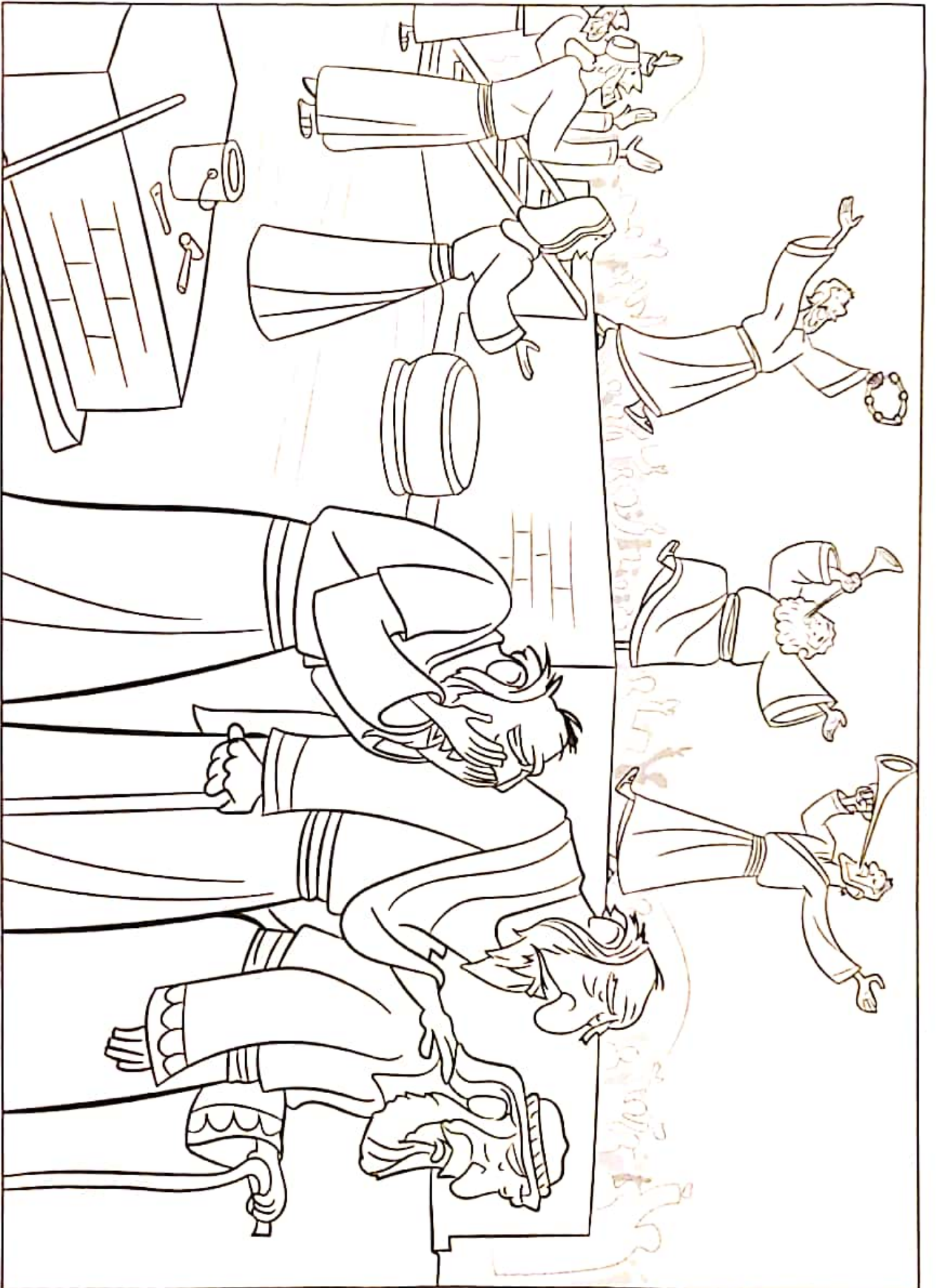
- How do we know God will keep all His promises?
- What are some ways you have seen God's faithfulness?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

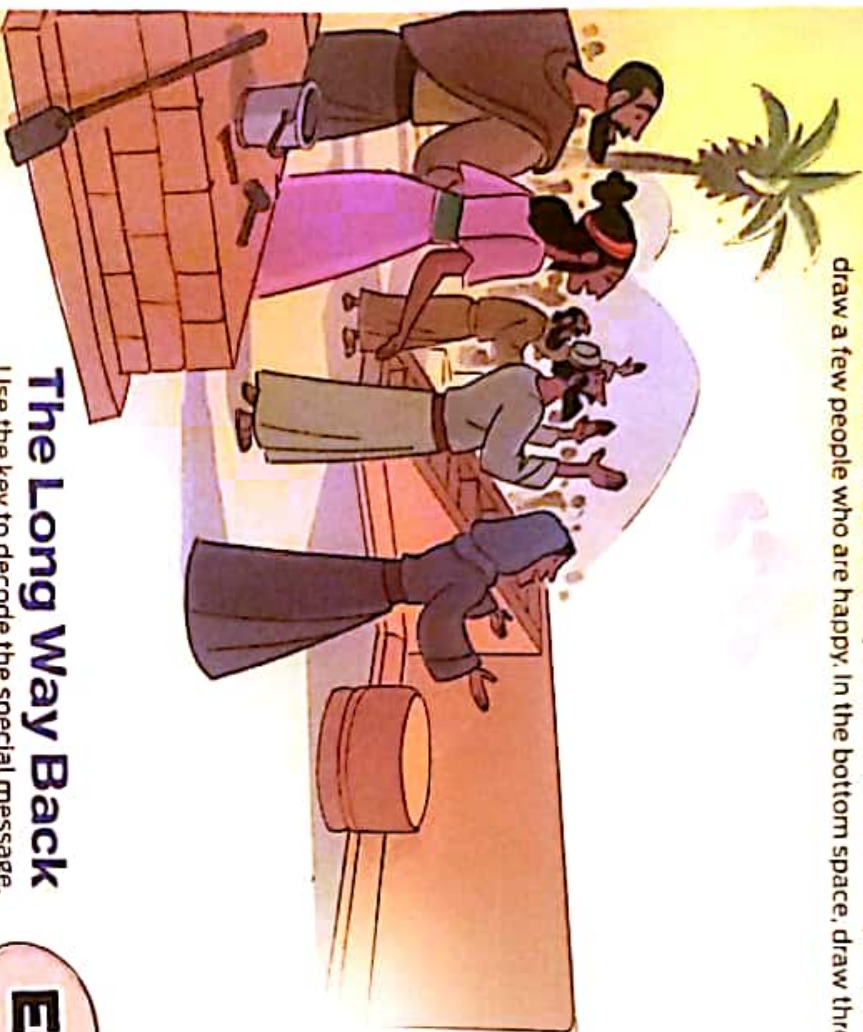
- Build a pillow fort with your kids. Take flashlights and a Bible into the fort and read different passages about God's faithfulness, such as Exodus 12:41; Joshua 21:43-45; Ezra 1:1-4. Discuss God's faithfulness to send Jesus.



DOWNLOAD the LIFEWAY KIDS APP



Set the Scene | Set the scene for today's Bible story. In the top space, draw a few people who are happy. In the bottom space, draw three people who are sad.



The Long Way Back

Use the key to decode the special message.



G _ D K _ P _

H _ S P R _ _ _ S _

BR _ NG H _ S P _ _ PL _ H _ _ _ .

Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What promise did God keep to His people in exile?
- How has God been faithful in your life?
- How can you trust God this week?

The Captives Come Home

Ezra 1-3

STORY POINT: GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE TO BRING HIS PEOPLE HOME.

Cyrus, king of Persia, had taken over Babylon. Cyrus said, "Let all of God's people go back to Jerusalem so they can rebuild the Lord's temple." The exile was over! God's people were free to go back to their homes.

Zerubbabel and the high priest led God's people back to Judah. They settled in their hometowns and set up their houses. Then the people met together in Jerusalem to rebuild the Lord's temple.

First, the priests rebuilt the altar. When the altar was finished, they offered burnt offerings to God.

Then God's people gave money to stonecutters and carpenters who would work on God's temple. They paid people to bring cedar logs to Jerusalem. They laid the foundation of the temple.

When the foundation was finished, the priests put on special clothes, and the people praised God.

Not everyone was happy though. Some of the older people remembered what the temple had looked like 70 years ago, before it had been destroyed. They cried. The noise of the crying and shouting was so loud that the people could be heard far away.



Christ Connection: Zerubbabel led God's people back to the temple to rebuild it. The temple was the place where God met with His people on earth. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people. One day Jesus will return to restore a greater home for all of God's people, and we will spend eternity with Him.