

UNIT 17 | SESSION 2

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

EZRA 4-6; HAGGAI 1-2



CHRIST CONNECTION: God's people built a house to be with God. We can be with God forever when we trust in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad! Isaiah 25:9

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God's people started building a special house for God called a temple.
- Some people made them stop, but God sent a message. It said, "Keep building the temple. God is with you!"
- God's people worked hard and finished the temple. Then they had a big party and thanked God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: God's people were happy to be home. They started building a special house for God called a temple. But some people did not want them to build the temple and made them stop. God sent a man named Haggai (HAG igh [eye]) who said, "Keep building the temple. God is with you!" The people started building again. King Darius even sent a letter to Tattenai (TAT ih nigh), the leader of Jerusalem. It said, "Let the people finish the temple. Give them money! 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.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Ezra 4. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “I’ve Got the Joy”:

“This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad, rejoice and be glad!
This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad today!”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.’ When we trust in Jesus, we can be with God forever in heaven. ”

2 SHAPE THE TEMPLE

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Provide large foam shape cutouts for babies to explore. Lead the babies in creating a temple out of the shapes. Use the rectangle for the body of temple and guide the babies’ fingers to outline their temple shapes. Review the gospel gems.

SAY “ God’s people started building a special house called a temple. They were building a house so they could be with God. We can be with God forever when we trust in Jesus. ”

3 STOP AND GO

Sit the babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Say, “Go!” and use hand movements to encourage the babies to lean toward or crawl forward. Then say, “Stop!” and place your hand out for the babies to stop. Continue as interest allows. Read the second gospel gem as the babies play.

SAY “ God’s people started building a special house called a temple. Some people made them stop, but God sent a message. It said, ‘Keep building the temple. God is with you!’ ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Ezra 4. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 MAKE A STOP-AND-GO SIGN

Provide toddlers with a piece of black construction paper and two circle cutouts, one red and one green. Guide the toddlers to glue the red circle to the top half of the paper and the green circle underneath. Review the story. When the toddlers hear God's people started to build, point to the green circle, and when the people had to stop, point to the red circle.

SAY “ What did God's people start to build? Yes, a temple! Did everyone want them to build the temple? No! Some people made them stop. ”

3 CARRY A MESSAGE

Cut strips of green and red construction paper. Provide foam building blocks for the temple. Place the toddlers in two groups. Instruct one group of toddlers to build the temple. Tell the other group to carry a message using the red and green strips. Lead the toddlers to find a friend to give the strip of paper to. If the strip is green, the toddlers keep building. But if the strip is red, the toddlers stop building. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Our Christ Connection reminds us that God's people built a house to be with God. Can we be with God forever? Yes, we can be with God forever when we trust in Jesus! ”

4 FIND THE MONEY

Set out five plastic cups. Turn the cups upside down and place play money coins under one of the cups. Allow toddlers to take turns finding the money. When found, encourage the toddler to give the money to another toddler. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ Did the king send a letter to Tattenai? Yes! It said, ‘Let the people finish the temple. Give them money!’ Were the people happy to keep building the temple? Yes! The people were happy! ”

5 SHOW BUILDINGS

Print and cut apart “Temples and Homes” printable. Display pictures of modern-day temples and homes. Then show pictures of a Bible-times temple and home. Explain that even though we live in homes, the temple was a special house for God. Discuss the Bible story. Talk about how the temple was special because it was God's house, just like a church building today is special because it's where God's people gather.

SAY “ God's people built a temple to be with God. Did God's people finish the temple? Yes! They did! The people had a big party and thanked God. ”

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KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad!
Isaiah 25:9

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: BE THANKFUL

Invite the toddlers to clap and celebrate when they hear things we should be thankful for. Give examples such as being thankful for our family, friends, our homes, and so forth. Explain that just like the people in the Bible story were thankful when the temple was finished being built, we can also be thankful. Retell the Bible story. Instruct toddlers to clap and celebrate when they hear the people were happy or thankful in the story.

SAY “ Were the people happy and thankful to God when the temple was finished? Yes! God's people were so happy and thankful. Can we be thankful to God too? Yes! ”

2 CHEER THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Lead the children in saying the key passage phrase using a patting, clapping, tapping, or stomping rhythm. Say, “This is our God. (pat, pat, clap, clap) He saved us. (pat, pat, clap) Let's rejoice (pat, pat, clap, clap) and be glad! (pat, pat, clap)” to a beat. Repeat, allowing toddlers to explore new rhythms and patterns.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that God saved people. We should rejoice and be glad. We can be with God forever when we trust in Jesus. ”

3 BUILD AND STOP

Provide building blocks for toddlers. Play soft worship music on an electronic device. Instruct the toddlers to start building “temples” when they hear the music and stop building when the music stops. If toddlers are still building their temples when the music stops, they are out and can cheer on the others. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ The people started building a special house called a temple. Did the people have to stop building the temple? Yes! Who sent Haggai to tell the people to keep building the temple? God! Is God always with us? Yes, He is! ”

4 MAKE A PARTY PAPER

Provide papers for the toddlers. Write The people had a big party and thanked God! Offer the toddlers supplies such as cardboard tubes, ribbon curls, stickers, adhesive bows, pom-poms, and other decorating supplies. Provide glue and markers or crayons for toddlers to use as they make their party papers. Retell the story as toddlers decorate their party papers.

SAY “ When the people finished building the temple, the people were so happy! How did the people celebrate? They had a big party and thanked God. We can celebrate and thank God too! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's Big Picture Card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.