

Unit 17 • Session 3
The Temple Was Rebuilt

March 29, 2020

Bible Passage:

Ezra 4–6; Haggai

Story Point: God's people rebuilt the temple.

Key Passage:

Jeremiah 29:11

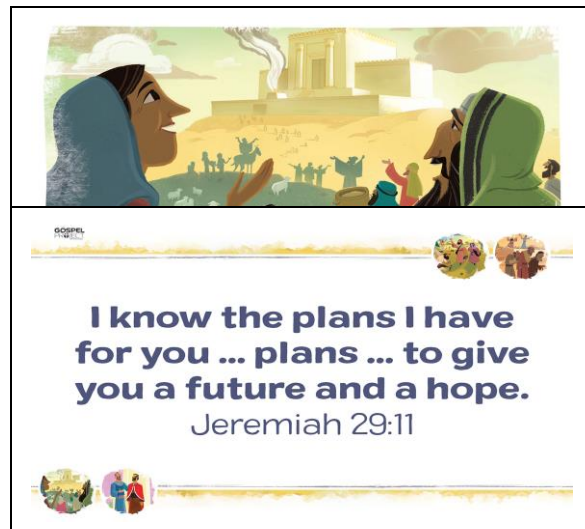
Big Picture Question:

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

The **BIBLE** Story

The Temple Was Rebuilt

Ezra 4–6; Haggai



God's people were happy to be **home**. They had lived in Babylon for a very long time, but the king had let them go home. They walked all the way home to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple. **The people had started to work on the temple, but their neighbors said, "Stop building the temple!" So God's people stopped.** Building the temple was hard. Maybe God doesn't want us to build it, they thought.

But God did want His people to finish the temple. **God sent** two prophets—**Haggai and Zechariah—to talk to the people. Haggai and Zechariah said, "Keep building. God is with you."** So God's people started to work on the temple again.

The king of Persia ruled over the land where God's people lived. The king's name was Darius (duh RIGH uhs). Darius put a helper in charge of the land where God's people lived.

The king's helper saw God's people working. He asked their leader Zerubbabel, "Do you have permission to rebuild this temple?"

"Yes," said Zerubbabel. The helper sent a letter to King Darius to find out if Zerubbabel was telling the truth. The helper's letter to the king said this: "Dear King Darius, the people here are working hard to build the temple to their God. They said King Cyrus said they could build. Please find out if this is true."

King Cyrus had been king before Darius. When a king made an important decision, someone wrote it down on a scroll. So Darius looked for the old scroll. His servants found it! The scroll said, "Let God's people rebuild the temple." God's people had told the truth!

King Cyrus had also said, "Help God's people pay for the temple. Give them money from the royal bank to buy supplies."

So King Darius wrote a letter to his helper. He said, "Stay away from the workers at the temple. Do not bother them or try to stop them. Give them anything they need."

The king's helper obeyed King Darius's order. **God's people kept building, and soon the temple was finished! What a happy time! The people celebrated the Passover 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. Jesus gave us something better than the temple; He gave us Himself. Jesus is with us wherever we go.

ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Play “I’m building a church”

Invite your family to sit down in a circle. Begin by saying, “I’m building a church today, and I need a _____. ” Fill in the blank with a type of tool that you would use along with a hand motion that describes that tool. Encourage the next family member to say, “I’m building a church today, and I need a _____. ” Say your original statement again. Continue around the circle until everyone has had the opportunity to add a tool and a hand motion. Be prepared to offer suggestions of tools and to help preschoolers remember. Tool ideas include a hammer, saw, screwdriver, wrench, brick, bulldozer, wheelbarrow, sledge hammer, and paintbrush.

Say • Today, we gather as a family to worship God in different buildings like church buildings, schools, and homes. In today’s Bible story, **God’s people rebuilt the temple** so they would have a special place to worship God.

Practice the key passage

What you need: Blocks masking tape marker

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on piece of masking tape on a block. Show preschoolers the blocks. Invite them to help you put the words of the verse in order. Say the verse several times as you build.
say • God planned all along to bring His people home and that they would rebuild the temple. God’s plans for His people are always for their good!

Learn the big picture question

Say • God spoke through the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to tell the people to keep building because He was with them. Years later, God sent Jesus to be with His people on earth. *How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.*

Bible Story Review

What did God’s people rebuild in today’s Bible story? (*the temple*)

What were the names of the two prophets God sent? (*Haggai and Zechariah*)

Who helped God’s people by telling his helper to give the people whatever they needed for the temple?
(*King Darius*)

What did God’s people do when the temple was finished? (*They celebrated the Passover.*)

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

Build a church with blocks/Legos

Use blocks or Legos to build churches or a temple.

Say • We pretended to build a church or a temple with our blocks. **God’s people rebuilt the temple** so that they would have a place to worship God. Even when other people tried to stop God’s people from building the temple, Haggai and Zechariah said, “Keep building. God is with you.” Jesus gave us something better than a temple; He gave Himself. Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Prayer Time: Thank God that you can worship him together with your family.

What Does Not Belong?

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the 10 things that do not belong in the picture.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 17 • Session 3

The Temple Was Rebuilt

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- The people's enemies told them to stop rebuilding the temple, so God's people stopped.
- God sent prophets to tell His people to keep building.
- King Darius told his helper to give the people whatever they needed to finish the temple.
- God's people rebuilt 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:

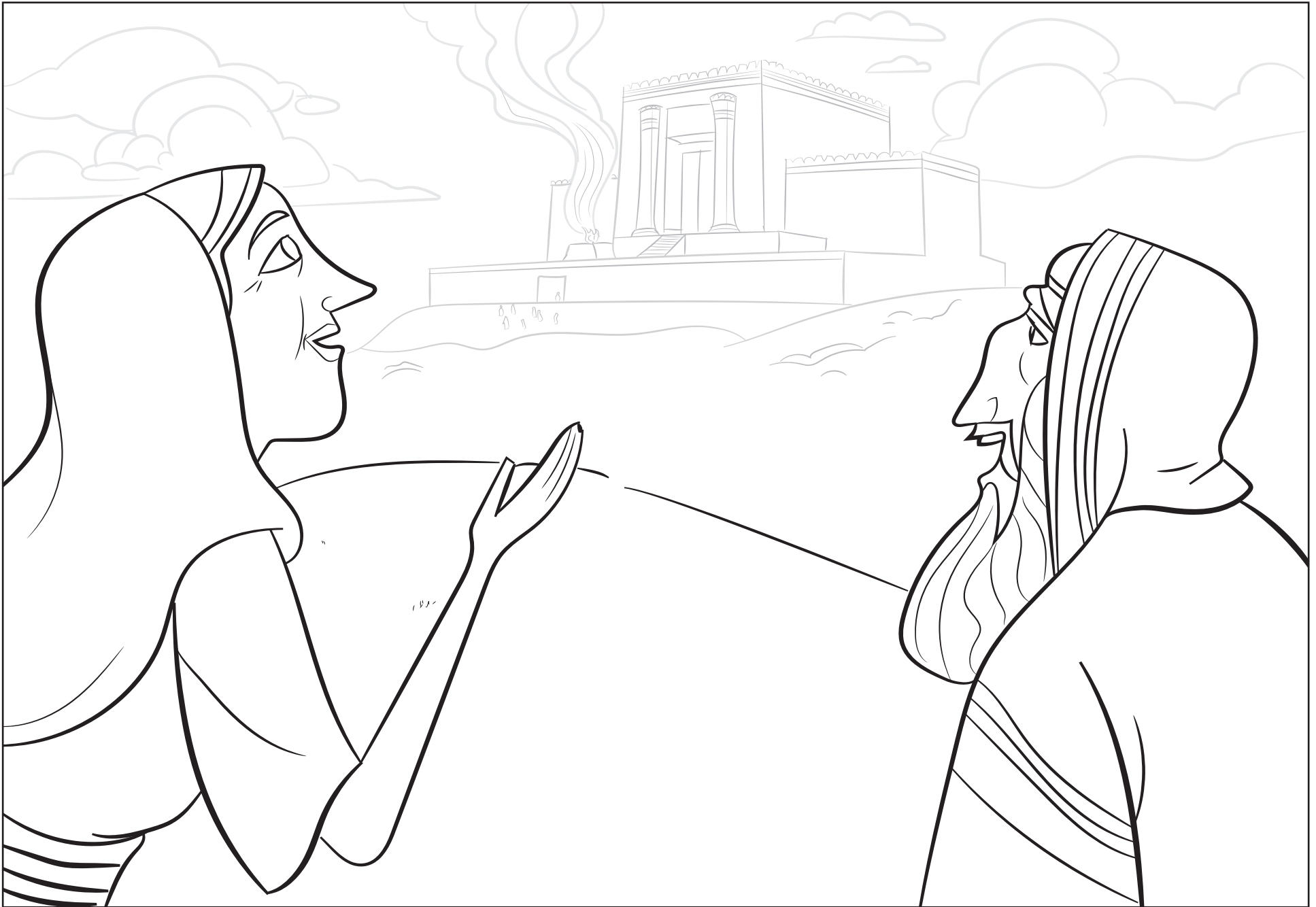
- Name ways God helped His people do what He asked them to do.
- Talk about places and ways we worship God today.
- How is Jesus better than the temple?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Volunteer as a family to help with the upkeep of the building where your church meets. You may choose to rake leaves, do simple yard work, pick up litter, clean windows, or pick up papers after worship.



DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP



Unit 17—Preschool Memory Verse

GOSPEL
PROJECT



**I know the plans I have
for you ... plans ... to give
you a future and a hope.**

Jeremiah 29:11



Unit 17—Uptown Memory Verse

GOSPEL
PROJECT



**I know the plans I have
for you, declares the LORD,
plans for welfare and
not for evil, to give you a
future and a hope.**

Jeremiah 29:11





The Temple Was Rebuilt

Ezra 4-6; Haggai

The Temple Was Rebuilt

Ezra 4–6; Haggai

Story Point: God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.

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

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. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

Key Passage: Jeremiah 29:11