



Pre-K / K

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



JANUARY 22
2nd Service

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LESSON

Imagine this for a moment: It's late Saturday night, and you've been out of the house all day. You've gone from place to place, striving to complete more than seemed possible from your calendar to-do list. You've just returned home and sat down for dinner. Suddenly you remember that tomorrow is Sunday. You quickly recall that you are scheduled to serve with preschoolers tomorrow morning, your small group is having lunch together after church, and you have yet to plan out this upcoming week—which is just as packed as your weekend has been. The thought crosses your mind: What if I just sat this one out tomorrow?

Does this scenario hit close to home?

In Ezra 3, as the work had begun to rebuild the temple, there was an eager desire among God's people, leading them to anticipate what that place would afford them upon its completion. As the people worked and waited, even in the midst of their exhaustion, they made time to worship.

Read Ezra 3:6. Not only was the temple incomplete, but the first stage of the build was not yet done. Still, the laborers did not forget or fail to keep the purpose at the forefront of their minds. The goal was not the temple; it was the Lord.

We often find ourselves in scenarios like the one above, ready to make excuses to not do the things that matter most because we've misplaced our priorities—or at least lost sight of them in the whirlwind of life. Our decisions reflect what has the seat of greatest importance in our lives.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching."

Understanding Christ to be our greatest purpose and prize ought to direct our paths toward prioritizing our lives around Christ and His church. Not only will this be good for us, but it will be good for the rest of God's children as well. When we are eager to be with the Lord and His people, not only will we be productive, but we will be truly satisfied.

PEOPLE TO KNOW Zerubbabel: grandson of King Jehoiachin. Zerubbabel returned from exile as a leader and helped rebuild the altar and lay the foundation of the temple.

THE PEOPLE REBUILT THE TEMPLE



EZRA 2-6



MEMORY VERSE

**"Blessed is the one
who trusts in the
Lord, whose
confidence is in
him."**

Jeremiah 17:7

QUESTION

Can God be trusted?



ANSWER



**Yes, God cannot
lie, so we can trust
whatever He has
said.**



BUSY HANDS

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

When the children arrive for second service, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for second service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

MAKE SHAPE ART // White construction paper, glue sticks, crayons, pre-cut shapes such as squares, rectangles, and triangles in different colors, scissors, Bible story picture poster

Invite the children to use the white construction paper for the background to create their rebuilt temple. Place the glue sticks, scissors, and pre-cut shapes such as squares, rectangles, and triangles on the tables. Use the Bible story picture poster as a visual reference.

SAY: You used squares, rectangles, and triangles to build the temple. The temple was where God's people went to worship Him. We are going to read about God's people and what it was like for them to rebuild the temple after it was destroyed.

Note: At 11:00 the kindergarten class will proceed to the Large Group 2 space for Kids' Worship. Continue the lesson wherever you stopped when you return.

The pre-k class will continue with the lesson.

THE BIBLE STORY // Bible, Bible story script

Invite preschoolers to talk about a time they helped someone such as a parent, grandparent, teacher, or guardian with a project. Start the conversation by telling about a time when you helped a someone with a project. Some examples might include helping a parent cook a meal, bake a cake, wash a car, or make a craft.

SAY: It can be fun to help with a project. Today's Bible story is about how God's people worked together on a BIG building project. Listen carefully to hear how everyone helped.

Open your Bible to Ezra 2-6. Tell the Bible story and guide the children to *identify happy (celebrating, completing the temple) and sad (crying, stopping the work) moments in the story*. Tell them to make happy faces during the happy moments and sad faces during the sad moments.

You may use the underlined parts of the story to review or shorten the story for the younger kids.

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

THE PEOPLE REBUILT THE TEMPLE

A man named Zerubbabel (zuh RUHB uh buhl) led God's people back home to start rebuilding God's temple. First, the priests made the altar and gave offerings to God. Then workers made the foundation, or the bottom, of the temple. When the foundation was complete, the people shouted and sang songs to God. "God is good! He is loving and always will be!" they said.

Not everyone was happy though. Some of the older people remembered what the first temple had looked like long ago, before it had been knocked down. The people were sad, and they cried loudly.

The people kept working, but after a while, 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 prophets to talk to the people. The prophets said, "Keep building. God is with you." So God's people started to work on the temple again.

At this time, King Darius (duh RIGH uhs) ruled over the land where God's people lived. 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 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. Is that 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! So King Darius wrote a letter back to his helper. He said, "Do not bother the workers at the temple 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! The people celebrated the Passover and thanked God.

REVIEW AND PRAY// Pictures of tools with question from the story (5), beanbag

Lay the 5 pictures of tools with questions on the floor. Give the beanbag to one of the children and ask him to throw the bean bag on the picture of one of the review questions. Pick up that card and read the question. Continue until all the questions have been asked and answered.

Continue



ACTIVE MINDS

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

1. Who led God's people back home to start rebuilding the temple? (Zerubbabel led God's people back home to start rebuilding God's temple.)
2. Who told the people to stop building the temple? (Their neighbors told the people to stop building the temple.)
3. What did the king's helper ask Zerubbabel? (The king's helper asked Zerubbabel, "Do you have permission to rebuild the temple?")
4. How did Zerubbabel answer? (Zerubbabel said, "Yes! King Cyrus gave us permission.")
5. After the temple was finished, the people celebrated the Passover and thanked God. If you were there, how would you have thanked God? (Preschoolers' answers will vary. They may include singing, praying, and saying, "Thank You, God.")

SAY: God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. When their neighbors told them to stop, the prophets encouraged them, 'Keep building! God is with you.' 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.

PRAY: Invite children to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them. Include prayers for our missionary families at this time, as well. God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that Jesus is with us wherever we go. Amen.

KEY PASSAGE AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Key passage marker (one verse for the kindergarten class and a simplified version for the pre-k class), Bible, key passage song on USB: "The Person Who Trusts in the Lord", big picture question poster (optional), grade appropriate hammer puzzles (6 for pre-k, 10 for kindergarten)

Give one "Hammer Puzzle," to every three or four children. Form groups of three or four children and lay out one set of pieces for each group. Place the key passage marker at Jeremiah 17:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Then instruct each group to put their puzzle together. Assist as needed. Review the passage with the children. Pre-K: The person who trusts in the Lord is blessed. Kindergarten: Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

SAY: God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. The people showed they trusted God by obeying Him. The person who trusts in the Lord is blessed!

Sing the key passage song "The Person Who Trusts in the LORD (Jeremiah 17:7)."

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION SAY: At first, King Darius did not know whether to trust God's people, but when he found the scroll, he discovered that God's people had told the truth. Our big picture question is, Can God be trusted? The answer is: Yes, God cannot lie, so we can trust whatever He has said.



OPEN HEARTS

LIFE APPLICATION & SCRIPTURE MEMORY

FIND THE SCROLLS // Written on separate scrolls and tied with yarn: big picture question and answer, key passage (both classes), encouraging messages such as God Loves You, God is always with you, Let God's people rebuild the temple, We can always trust God

Either hide the scrolls when the children are doing another activity or ask them to close their eyes and hide the scrolls before this activity. Explain to the children that you have hidden "scrolls" around the room and encourage them to find the scrolls. When each scroll is found, help preschoolers read the message to the other children. Option: The children who find scrolls could sit down and you could repeat the activity so every child could find a scroll.

SAY: When King Cyrus made an important decision, someone wrote it down on a scroll. To find out if the people could rebuild the temple, King 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. Our big picture question is, Can God be trusted? The answer is: Yes, God cannot lie, so we can trust whatever He has said. God always keeps His promises.

SING A SONG // None

Guide the children to sit in a circle. Teach them this song to the tune of "God Is So Good," and lead them to sing it together.

"*God sent His Son
*God sent His Son
*God sent His Son
He is here with us."

*Repeat with alternate lines such as "Jesus is here" and "wherever we go."

SAY: Singing songs is a way to praise and worship God. God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. When they finished the foundation, they sang a song of praise to 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.

HELP AROUND THE CLASSROOM // None

Tell the children that you need their help tidying up the classroom. Enlist a group of children to look for paper on the floor that needs to be thrown away. Task another group of children to help to stack the chairs and another group to pick up and/or organize the toys. As your class works together, remind the children that God's people worked together to rebuild the temple.

Continue



EXTRA IDEAS

SAY: Today you helped take care of our classroom! How did it make you feel to take care of the classroom? [Allow responses.] What was your favorite part of taking care of our room? [Allow responses.] God's people worked together to rebuild the temple; that was a big job! The people trusted God and with His help they were able to finish building the temple! Can God be trusted? Yes, God cannot lie, so we can trust whatever He has said. One day we won't need a church building anymore because we will worship God forever in His kingdom.

PLAY A "KING, MAY I?" GAME // None

Choose one child to be the "king." The other children are the king's helpers. To begin the game, the king stands at one end of the room. The other children take turns asking, "King, may I ____?" Each child fills in the blank with a movement suggestion such as "take two steps forward," "hop like a frog," or "crawl like a crab." The king replies either "Yes, you may" or "No, you may not do that, but you may ____ instead," and insert his own movement suggestion.

The goal is for the kids to move enough to reach the king. Repeat the activity, allowing each child to be the "king."

SAY: God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. 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 the king to find out if Zerubbabel was telling the truth. He was! King Darius said, 'Do not bother the workers at the temple or try to stop them. Give them anything they need.'

REMINDERS: The VIP meeting will be 10:20-10:30 in the Puddle Room. Attend for: Vision/Information/Prayer. Pick up your supply bin before going to class.

REVIEW the items in your bin, be ready to greet the parents and children at the door and dismiss First Service children. When you leave the classroom, stack the chairs in the designated area and return the bin to the Puddle Room.

FOLLOW protocol for sanitizing hands and cleaning large surfaces.