

The People Rebuilt the Temple (Ezra 2–6)



Dear families,

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 with more to do than seemed possible when you looked at all of it on the calendar. 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 are 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 in front. 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.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God's people rebuilt the temple where they could worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people on earth.
- **Younger Preschool:** 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.
- **Older Preschool:** 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.
- **Kids:** 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 does not dwell with His people through the temple. Instead, God dwells directly with His people through His Spirit. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** Can God be trusted? Yes, we can trust whatever He has said.
- **Older Preschool:** Can God be trusted? Yes, God cannot lie, so we can trust whatever He has said.
- **Kids:** Can God be trusted? Yes, God cannot lie or ever be wrong, so we can trust whatever He has said.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Trust in the Lord. Jeremiah 17:7
- **Younger Preschool:** The person who trusts in the Lord is blessed. Jeremiah 17:7
- **Older Preschool:** The person who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence indeed is the LORD, is blessed. Jeremiah 17:7
- **Kids:** The person who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence indeed is the LORD, is blessed. Jeremiah 17:7

**** Next week:** God Can Always Be Trusted (Jeremiah 31)