



Use Week of:

Unit 17 • Session 3

The Temple Was Rebuilt

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ezra 4–6; Haggai

STORY POINT: The prophets told about Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11a

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Bible Story for Toddlers

God's people were building the temple. But the people who lived around them did not want them to rebuild. The king's helper wrote to King Darius, "The people here are building the temple to their God. They said King Cyrus said they could build. Please find out if this is true." The prophet Haggai told the people to keep building because God was with them. Then King Darius wrote back, "King Cyrus said for them to rebuild the temple. Stay away from them and do not stop them. Give them whatever they need." God's people finished building the temple, and then they celebrated the Passover. God's people were so happy that God kept His promise to help them rebuild the temple.

Babies Gospel Gems

- * God helped His people rebuild the temple.
- * Haggai said God was with them.
- * Because of Jesus, we can worship God anywhere.

Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

BABIES Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Ezra 4. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY • God's people stopped building the temple, but the prophet Haggai said God was with them. God helped His people rebuild the temple. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** [*Pray for the babies.*]

Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O":

"God told prophets about His plan, His plan to send a Savior!

J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S!

God's prophets told about Jesus!"

SAY • Enemies tried to stop God's people. Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Make hammer art

Place heavyweight paper in ziplock bag with a few squirts of paint for each baby. Let out the air and seal the bag with duct tape. Provide toy hammers for babies to hit the bags to disperse the paint. They may also use their hands. Remove the art and set it aside to dry. Write the story point on each artwork.

SAY • God helped His people rebuild the temple. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** Because of Jesus, we can worship God anywhere.

Deliver letters

Provide a tote with junk mail. Cut a slit or small hole in a lightweight box. Encourage babies to take out the mail and put it in the "mailbox." Tell the babies that King Darius wrote a letter saying God's people could rebuild the temple.

SAY • God helped His people rebuild the temple. The prophet Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.**

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 gospel gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

TODDLER Activities

Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Ezra 4. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

“Write” letters

Provide paper, sidewalk chalk, and stickers for toddlers to “write” a letter. Remind toddlers that King Darius sent a letter saying the people could rebuild the temple. Write the story point or key passage on each letter.

SAY • The people were not sure if the king would let them build, but Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Play with rhythm instruments

Provide jingle bells, maracas, xylophones, kazoos, and other instruments for toddlers to play as you play music. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • God's people praised God when they built the temple. Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS,** who is with us too!

Shake shakers

Place small items (nails, nuts, bolts, screws) into clear plastic bottles and seal the caps with duct tape. Invite toddlers to shake the bottles to make sounds. Talk about how we use these items in building. Retell the story.

SAY • God helped His people rebuild the temple. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** Because of Jesus, we can worship God anywhere!

Sand wooden blocks

Post an allergy alert. Provide wooden blocks and fine grain sandpaper for toddlers to practice sanding. You may also provide mineral oil and washcloths for toddlers to polish the wood when they are finished. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • God helped His people rebuild the temple. Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.**

BONUS Teaching Hour

SESSION TITLE: The Temple Was Rebuilt

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ezra 4–6; Haggai

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11a

STORY POINT: The prophets told about Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is with us wherever we go.

Transition activity: Mix and play with cloud dough

Post an allergy alert. Give each child a painting smock. Pour eight cups of flour into a large bowl with one cup of baby oil. Instruct toddlers to help you mix the flour and oil together. Allow toddlers to touch and play with the dough when you are finished. Keep wipes handy for cleanup. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • Thank you for your help! God helped His people rebuild the temple. They faced trouble, but Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** Because of Jesus, we can worship God anywhere!

Play follow-the-leader

Encourage toddlers to follow you and do what you do as you march around the room. Pump your arms, touch your head, turn, and do other silly motions for toddlers to copy. Play several rounds. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • God's people had stopped building the temple because they were waiting for permission. Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.** Jesus is with us wherever we go!

Build with interlocking logs

Provide interlocking logs for toddlers to build a temple. Talk about the Bible story as toddlers work. Cheer when the building is finished.

SAY • God helped His people rebuild the temple. They faced trouble, but Haggai said God was with them. **THE PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS.**

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, story point, or gospel gems throughout the week.