

Winter Storm Challenge

If we get snowed or iced in and are not able to come to church here are some activities your family can do together with the lesson we would have had in Sunday School. Send us a picture of your family doing any of these activities or tag us on socials for a chance to win Praise Him A 30 Day Family Devotional book.



Rebuilding the Temple

Ezra 4-6 Haggai 1-2

Review:

Tell your kids to think about what we have been learning in Sunday School and Kids Worship the past several weeks. You can ask these questions to help them review where we are in God's Story.

- The past few weeks you have been talking about Daniel. What do you know about Daniel?
- Daniel lived in a time when the Israelites were taken captive. Where was Daniel in captivity at? (Babylon)
- Why did God allow the people to be taken captive?(They would not repent and turn from their evil ways even though the prophets warned them.)
- How many years were the Israelites held in captivity in Babylon? (70 just like the prophet Jeremiah warned them would happen)
- When Cyrus became King of Persia he was moved by God to let the Israelites return to their homeland. What did he give back to them to take with them? (Treasures from the temple that had been stolen when King Nebuchadnezzar took them captive.)
- What was the first thing the Israelites did after returning to their homeland? (They built an altar so they could resume worshipping God and making sacrifices to Him.)

Read today's Scriptures and discuss:

- Today we are going to read about the Rebuilding of Temple. Why do you think it was important to the Israelite people to rebuild the Temple? (It was their place to be able to worship God and represented His dwelling among them.)
- Read Ezra 4:6-22
 - In these verses the enemies of God sent a message to the King against the Israelites. They did not want them to rebuild the temple. The King made an order to stop all the building.

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- Read Haggai 1:3-14
 - The people have not built on the temple for 16 years. God sent the Prophet Haggai to tell the people that it was time to start rebuilding the temple. He asked them if it was time for them to live in a nice house, while the house of God lies in ruins. The people obeyed and began rebuilding the temple again. At this point the governor of the region is Tattenai and the King of Persia is Darius.
- Read Ezra 5:6-17
 - The governor Tattenai questioned what they were doing and who told them to rebuild the temple. The people told them that when Cyrus was king of Persia he released us to come home and told us to rebuild the temple.
 - Tattenai sent a message to King Darius to search the archives to see if what the people said is true.
- Read Ezra 6:1-5, 13-16
 - King Darius searched the archives and found the decree from King Cyrus. He ordered that the Jews were to continue and complete building the temple. When they finished the temple the people celebrated and dedicated the temple.

God's people rebuilt the temple to worship Him. God calls us to worship Him and we don't need a temple to worship God. God sent His son, Jesus to be with His people. Jesus provides something better than the temple; He gives us Himself. Anyone who trusts in Jesus can worship God anytime or any place because His Spirit lives in us.

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- **Pray together:**

- Pray and thank God for sending us Jesus. Ask God to help us worship Him in ways that Honor him.

- **Activity: Build a Temple**

- Use whatever items you have at home and build a temple together. Some ideas:
 - Use blocks, legos, magnates, etc.
 - Make an edible temple with graham crackers, icing, marshmallows or other foods.
 - Build a blanket fort temple
- Send us a picture of your temple or post on social media and tag First Kids

- **Worship God through music**

- Sing a favorite song together
- Scan the QR code below for our First Kids playlist and find a song to worship with.



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Ezra 4-6 Haggai 1-2

- **Practice our January memory challenges**

- Romans 3:23
 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Isaiah 25:9
 - It will be said on that day, Behold, this our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. this is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.
- Big Picture question and answer:
 - Q- How did God plan to fix what sin broke?
 - A- Before He created the world , God planned the Messiah.

- **Ideas to practice:**

- Say the verse while doing actions such as jumping jacks, ballerina twirls, standing on one foot, running in place, etc.
- Find a tune to put the words to and turn the verse into a song.
- Write the words on index cards or individual pieces of paper and put in order. Then take away a couple of words at a time and see if you can still say the verse.
- Write the verse.
- If you put the words on individual papers lay them out in order and hop from word to word while you say the verse.