



It will be said on that day,
 "Behold, this is 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."
 Isaiah 25:9

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

My child has completed the Christ Connection on his/her own and has discussed it with me:
Parent Signature: _____



Unit 17 • Session 1

GOD BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE HOME

Ezra 1-3

**HOW DID GOD PLAN TO FIX WHAT SIN BROKE?
BEFORE HE CREATED THE WORLD, GOD PLANNED TO SEND
THE MESSIAH.**

King Cyrus of Persia issued a decree, saying: “The LORD has appointed me to build him a house in Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people may go to Jerusalem to build the house of the LORD.”

God's people prepared to go to Jerusalem and build the Lord's house. All their neighbors supported them with gifts of silver, gold, livestock, and valuables.

A few months after they arrived in Jerusalem, Jeshua the priest, Zerubbabel, and their brothers began to build the altar of God so that they could sacrifice burnt offerings. Then, they began to buy the supplies needed to rebuild the temple.

Two years after God's people arrived in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and their brothers appointed the Levites to oversee the work on the Lord's house. Once they had laid the foundation of the temple, the priests led the people to praise God with trumpets and cymbals. They sang, "The LORD is good. His faithful love to Israel endures forever."

While most people were happy, some of the older priests remembered the first temple. This new foundation was not as magnificent as the original temple. The people could not tell the difference between those who were weeping loudly and those who were shouting for joy.

Christ Connection: Just as God promised, He brought His people back from exile to Jerusalem. One day, God will bring all His people together—all who trust in Jesus to save them from sin. There will be no crying that day. The people will worship Him in the new heaven and new earth.

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JOURNAL PAGE

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Unit 17 • Session 2

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

Ezra 4-6; Haggai 1-2

HOW DID GOD PLAN TO FIX WHAT SIN BROKE? BEFORE HE CREATED THE WORLD, GOD PLANNED TO SEND THE MESSIAH.

When God's enemies who lived in Judah heard that the people of God had returned and were rebuilding the temple of the Lord, they decided to stop them. They wrote a letter to Artaxerxes, king of Persia. The letter said, "We are loyal to the king, and believe that once the city is finished, the people will not pay taxes to you anymore. Search your record books, and you will discover that the city is rebellious and harmful to you."

The king replied, "I order the people to stop building the city." The people stopped rebuilding the temple until King Darius became king of Persia.

God sent the prophet Haggai to speak to the people. The Lord said, "Is it time for you to live in a nice house, while the house of God lies in ruins? Rebuild my house, and then I will send rain for the crops and help you prosper." The people obeyed and started to build again. Then Tattenai sent a letter to King Darius that said, "Let it be known that the people of God are once again rebuilding the temple. When I asked them why they were rebuilding, they told me that many years ago, King Cyrus issued an order to rebuild the temple of God." King Darius searched his royal records and found the order from King Cyrus. The people were telling the truth. He issued a new law: "Leave the people of God alone, and let them rebuild the temple." The people finished the temple and had a great celebration.

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. Jesus provides something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

The Gospel Project At Home



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