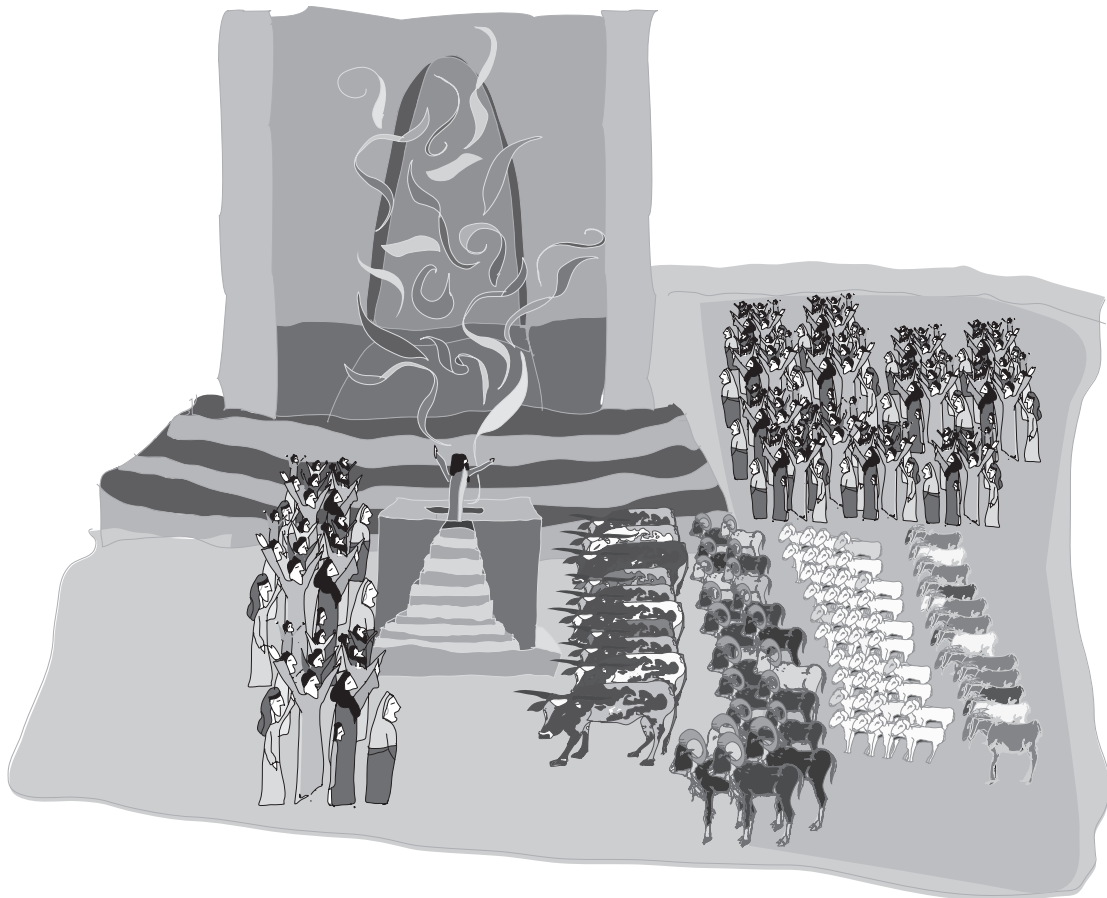


LESSON 77

The Temple Is Completed

EZRA 6:13-22



BIBLE TRUTH

NOTHING STOPS GOD FROM REDEEMING HIS PEOPLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Several sets of building blocks

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 77)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 1

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Temple and Babylon

SUPPLIES: tape

Celebrate with Sacrifices

SUPPLIES: a five-pound bag of rice; plastic bags; dark, solid color tablecloth

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about how the people of Israel finished rebuilding the temple.

Bring to class several sets of building blocks (enough to supply several groups of children with a sufficient number of blocks to build a temple).

Divide the class into teams of three to six children. Give each group an equal pile of blocks to make a temple. Review last week’s lesson (laying the temple foundation), and have each group start by laying their foundation—the first layer of blocks forming a rectangle.

Explain that now each team is going to finish building their temple. Tell the class that the first group to use up all their blocks is the winner.

Then engage the children by asking the following questions:

Ask the class if they’ve ever started something they had trouble finishing: perhaps a chore like cleaning their room or a project like building a complicated Lego city or a large puzzle with small pieces. What happens when something takes longer than you want? What do you do? (start complaining, get distracted)

When the foundation of the temple was completed, the project was not yet done. The exiles needed to keep trying and keep working until the job was finished.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 77, “The Temple Is Completed,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What did the people start rebuilding?
(the temple)
- Who told them to do this?
(God told them. King Darius also told them.)
- Did they finish this time?
(Yes, this time they didn't stop and they finished.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Did the people follow God in the dedication of the temple?
(Yes, Ezra 6:18 tells us that they followed the Book of Moses.)
- What is the Book of Moses?
(The Book of Moses refers to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. They were the ones that were written down by Moses.)
- What did God do for them at the celebration?
(Ezra 6:22 says God filled them with joy. When we follow God's Word it brings us joy as well.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 77—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Ephesians 2:19–22

After the rebuilding of Zerubbabel's temple, 700 animals were sacrificed. At the completion of Solomon's temple 142,000 animals were sacrificed. Neither temple remains today. Those hundreds and thousands of sacrifices were temporary. Those temples were temporary.

Jesus is God's temple (Revelation 21:22), just as Christ's body—the church—is God's temple (Ephesians 2:19–22). As a part of the church we are each individually God's temple (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

We are God's temples because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. Together we make up his church and all of us form the body of Christ. In Christ we have become the new temple of God. Only one sacrifice was made and only one was ever needed—the death of Christ on the cross.

- **Why is the priest bringing a lamb?**
(The lamb is for the Passover feast that Israel celebrated at the completion of the temple rebuilding.)
- **What was the Passover supposed to help Israel remember?**
(The Passover helped God's people remember the day the angel of death passed over all those who had placed blood on their door frames.)
- **For us looking back, whom do we know the lamb represents?**
(The Passover lamb represents Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was killed for our salvation.)

The Temple and Babylon

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ tape

With tape, outline a large rectangle on the floor to represent the temple foundation. Make the rectangle large enough so that the children can stand side by side on the perimeter, linking arms.

Have two children stand inside the rectangle of tape and the rest of the class stand along the rectangle itself. Tell the class that they are going to pretend to be the temple of God and act out the destruction and rebuilding of the temple.

To start, have the children lock arms at the elbow to form the walls of the temple. As you say each phrase, have the children do the action indicated:

- "The Babylonians invaded Jerusalem and took all the silver and gold out of the temple."
(Break the locked arms of two of the children and take the two children out from inside the temple and have them stand on the other side of the room.)
- "The Babylonians destroyed the temple."
(Have the children's arms go limp to their side.)
- "The Babylonians set the temple on fire."
(Have the children raise their arms above their heads and wave their hands as flames.)
- "The temple burned and was ruined."
(Have the children sink to the ground as dead.)
- "The exiles returned and laid the temple foundation."
(Have the two exiles return and join the other children on the tape rectangle. Have all squat down.)
- "The walls were rebuilt."
(Have the children stand up.)
- "The temple was completed and everyone celebrated!"
(Have the children stand straight up and clap their hands.)

Explain to the children that it was God who helped Israel rebuild the temple.

Celebrate with Sacrifices

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a five-pound bag of rice
- ✓ plastic bags
- ✓ dark, solid color tablecloth

Prior to class, estimate one hundred, two hundred, and four hundred grains of rice and place each in a plastic bag. Mark the bags as one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, and four hundred lambs. Spread the dark tablecloth out on a table or on the floor.

Gather the class around the cloth—around the table or on the floor. Explain to the class that the dedication of the temple was celebrated by sacrificing animals.

■ Do you remember why animals were sacrificed?

(Animals were killed as payment for the bad things people did. Others were offered up to make things holy for God's use because they had been touched by sinful men.)

Ask the children if they remember how many animals were sacrificed on the day of dedication. Take out the bag of one hundred and spill it on the tablecloth telling them that one hundred bulls were sacrificed. Then do the same for the rams and again for the lambs. Tell them that the people followed God's instructions just as written in the book of Moses (Ezra 6:18).

Ask the class if they remember that when the foundation (the bricks) was laid for the temple not everyone was happy. Remind them that the older priests remembered the old temple, and they were sad that the new one was not going to be as wonderful.

■ Do you remember how many animals were killed for the dedication of the first temple—Solomon's temple?

(Read 2 Chronicles 7:4–6, which tells us that 142,000 animals were killed.)

At this point take the rest of the bag of rice and spill it on the cloth. After the children's amazement dies down, ask them the following question:

- Even though all these animals were killed, could they take away the people's sin?

(No, animal sacrifices could not take away the people's sin.)

- Can anyone tell me about a very special sacrifice that can take away people's sins?

(Jesus is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed [killed on a cross] to take away our sins. When we trust in Jesus we are forgiven, and one day in heaven all sin will be taken away.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 77 - THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETED

