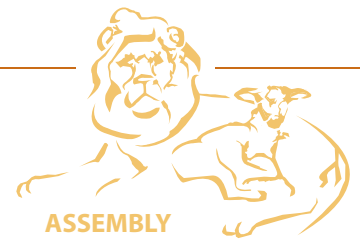


# THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EZRA 6:13-22



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

**Supplies:**

- 30 real bricks
- Large supply of building blocks

Prior to class set the bricks up in a 10' x 5' rectangle. This will mark the temple foundation. Scatter the blocks all around the classroom.

When the children come in tell them each to gather some blocks and build a house. (Some may recognize the outline of the temple foundation from the last lesson. If they try to take those bricks tell them not to because that is the temple's foundation.)

Then read to them Haggai 1:4-9. Tell the children that Haggai was a prophet who came to the people of Jerusalem and told them to stop building their own houses and finish God's house.

Have all the children come together bringing blocks to place on the foundation. When all their blocks are stacked on the foundation celebrate the completion of the temple with a shout of joy.

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### CELEBRATE WITH SACRIFICES

**Supplies:**

- 5lb bag of rice
- plastic bags
- solid color dark table cloth

Prior to class, count out 100, 200, and 400 grains of rice and place each in a plastic bag. Mark the bags as 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs.

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, and some were offered up to make things holy for God's use because they had been touched by sinful men.)

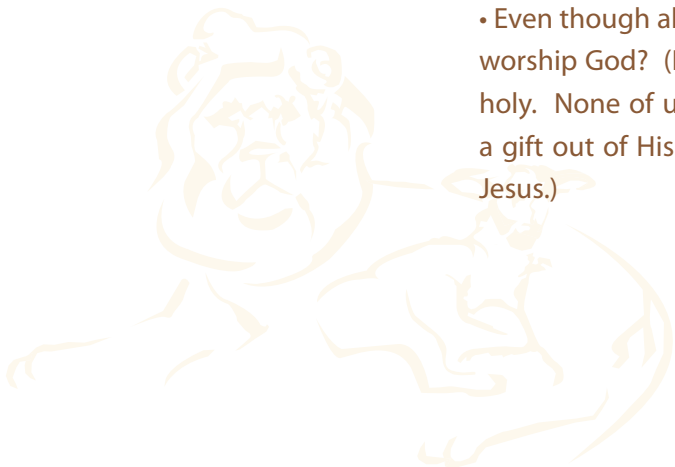
Ask the children if they remember how many animals were sacrificed on the day of dedication. Take out the bag of 100 and spill it on the table telling them 100 bulls were sacrificed. Then do the same for the rams, and again for the lambs. Tell them that the people followed God's instructions just as it was 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 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 table. After the children's amazement dies down ask them this question:

- Even though all these animals were killed, did Solomon continue to love and worship God? (No. Jesus is the one Lamb who was slain so that we could be holy. None of us can be holy by ourselves. God gives us Jesus' goodness as a gift out of His love. Hold up one grain of rice and tell them all we need is Jesus.)



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### 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.*

After the rebuilding of Zerubbabel's Temple, 700 hundred 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, see Revelation 21:22, just as Christ's body (the church) is God's temple, see Ephesians 2:19-22. As a part of the church we are each individually God's temple, see 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.

