

THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EZRA 6:13-22



The STORY

Read Ezra 6:13-22 from the ESV Bible.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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

- What did the people start building again? (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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Passover lamb being carried with the Temple complete in the background. Engage the children by asking:

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

THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EZRA 6:13-22

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children 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.)

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

