



NEW COV KIDS

STUDENT DEVOTIONAL UNIT 17

Name:

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UNIT 17: HOPE AT HOME

Session 1: God Brought His People Home Ezra 1-3



Sunday, January 4

How did God
plan to fix what
sin broke?

Before He created the world, God
planned to send the Messiah.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 25:9

"On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him. Let's rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Monday,
January 5

SESSION I



Before you read...

- ▶ The people of Judah have been in exile in Babylon for 70 years! Last month, we read about Daniel. All of those events happened while God's people were in exile. Now, 70 years later, it is time for God's people to go home.
- ▶ This passage talks about Cyrus king of Persia. He took over Babylon during those 70 years when God's people were in exile.



Read Ezra 1:1-4

- ▶ God keeps His promises! Which prophet told the people that their exile would end?

- ▶ What did God appoint King Cyrus to do in Jerusalem?

- ▶ After 70 years, exile is over!! How do you think the people celebrated?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that the 70 years in exile were over and God's people were going to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.
- ▶ Ezra doesn't say this, but the trip from Babylon to Jerusalem was very long. Bible experts think it might have taken them four months to travel back.



Read Ezra 1:5-11

- ▶ List three of the items that the neighbors gave to God's people to take with them back to Jerusalem.

- ▶ Why do you think King Cyrus told the neighbors to give those things to God's people? What would they need them for?

- ▶ King Nebuchadnezzar stole things from God's temple and now King Cyrus is giving them back! How do you think God's people felt about having their temple items returned?

Wednesday,
January 7

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ God's people returned to Jerusalem with gifts from their neighbors and items belonging to the temple that Nebuchadnezzar had stolen!
- ▶ When the people got to Jerusalem, they saw the temple and everything around it had been completely destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar. God's people returned to a ruined city.



Read Ezra 3:1-6

- ▶ After God's people returned, what is the first thing they built in Jerusalem?

- ▶ Why did God's people build the altar? What did they need it for?

- ▶ Challenge question: Why did the people present so many offerings and sacrifices?



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read that God's people built the altar first, even though they were afraid of the foreign people around them. The altar was very important to them.
- ▶ The Jews began offering sacrifices and celebrating the feasts that God required because they wanted to return to following God's ways.



Read Ezra 3:7-9

- ▶ What did God's people begin to build next?

- ▶ What materials did they need for this project?

- ▶ Challenge question: Why did the Levites supervise the project? What role did Levites have?

Friday,
January 9

SESSION 1



Before you read...

- ▶ After building the altar, God's people began building the temple. The Levites supervised the building because they were the priests who offered the sacrifices in the temple.
- ▶ This passage talks about the 'foundation' of the temple. The foundation is the bottom layer of a building; the first stones that go on the ground.

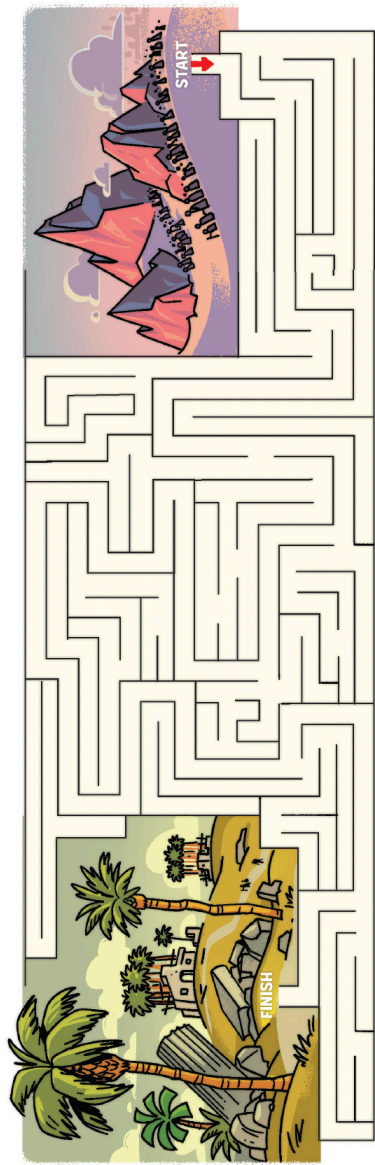


Read Ezra 3:10-13

- ▶ What did God's people do after the temple's foundation was built?

- ▶ Why do you think they celebrated when only a little bit of the temple had been built?

- ▶ Verse 12 says that some of the older priests and leaders were sad when they saw the foundation of the temple. Do you think this temple was bigger or smaller than the one that Solomon built?



Find the Way Home | After seventy years in exile, God brought His people home. Find the way through the maze to bring the people back to Jerusalem.

God's people celebrated the festivals and holy days God commanded.

King Cyrus returned the riches Nebuchadnezzar took from the first temple.

King Cyrus gave an order to let God's people return to Jerusalem.

Jeshua and Zerubbabel began to rebuild the altar.

Many people celebrated the temple's foundation, but some people were sad.

The temple's foundation was completed.

Zerubbabel and Jeshua chose Levites to oversee the work of the temple.

What's the Order? | Number the stones on the foundation in the correct order of the Bible story.

UNIT 17: HOPE AT HOME

Session 2: Rebuilding The Temple Ezra 4-6; Haggai 1-2



Sunday, January 11

How did God
plan to fix what
sin broke?

Before He created the world, God
planned to send the Messiah.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 25:9

"On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him. Let's rejoice and be glad in his salvation."



Before you read...

- ▶ Last week, we read that God's people began building the temple in Jerusalem. But, God's people had enemies that did not want them to rebuild the temple.
- ▶ The enemies were afraid that God's people would become too powerful, so they wrote a letter to the king of Persia to try to stop the building of the temple.



Read Ezra 4:11-13; 23-24

- ▶ How did the people who wrote the letter describe Jerusalem?

- ▶ What did the king force God's people to do?

- ▶ Do you think it was a good idea for God's people to stop building the temple? Why should we obey God even when others might challenge our obedience?

Tuesday,
January 13

SESSION 2



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that the king of Persia ordered God's people to stop rebuilding the temple. And they did stop rebuilding for a very long time...until there was a new king of Persia.
- ▶ God sent the prophet Haggai to encourage the people to start building again. Haggai has his own book in the Bible and we will read from it today. Haggai is also mentioned in the book of Ezra. Both books tell details about God's people rebuilding the temple.



Read Haggai 1:3-9

- ▶ What did Haggai tell God's people to give careful thought to?

- ▶ Whose house did the people build first, their own or God's?

- ▶ Why did God want His house to be built? (Verse 8)



Before you read...

- ▶ God sent the prophet Haggai to encourage His people to start building the temple again. Haggai said God's house must be built first so that God could be honored.
- ▶ The people did start to build again, but there were more enemies who tried to stop them. They wrote another letter to the king of Persia to try to stop them again.



Read Ezra 5:7-13

- ▶ How did the author of the letter describe the work God's people were doing? (Verse 8)

- ▶ How did God's people describe themselves in verse 11?

- ▶ Who did God's people say gave them permission to rebuild the temple?

Thursday,
January 15

SESSION 2



Before you read...

- ▶ Though more enemies tried to stop God's people rebuilding the temple, God's people kept building this time. They told the enemies that King Cyrus gave them permission to rebuild the temple.
- ▶ King Darius searched the archives and found King Cyrus' decree allowing God's people to rebuild the temple. So King Darius sent a letter back to the enemies of God's people.



Read Ezra 6:6-12

- ▶ What did the king tell the governor in verse 7?

- ▶ How else did King Darius help God's people with rebuilding the temple?

- ▶ What did King Darius say should happen to anyone who tries to change the decree or destroy the temple? (Verse 12)



Before you read...

- ▶ King Darius really helped God's people in rebuilding the temple by making a decree to allow it and giving them money to get all of the supplies they needed.
- ▶ King Darius wasn't an Israelite, but God used him to fulfill His plans.



Read Ezra 6:13-18

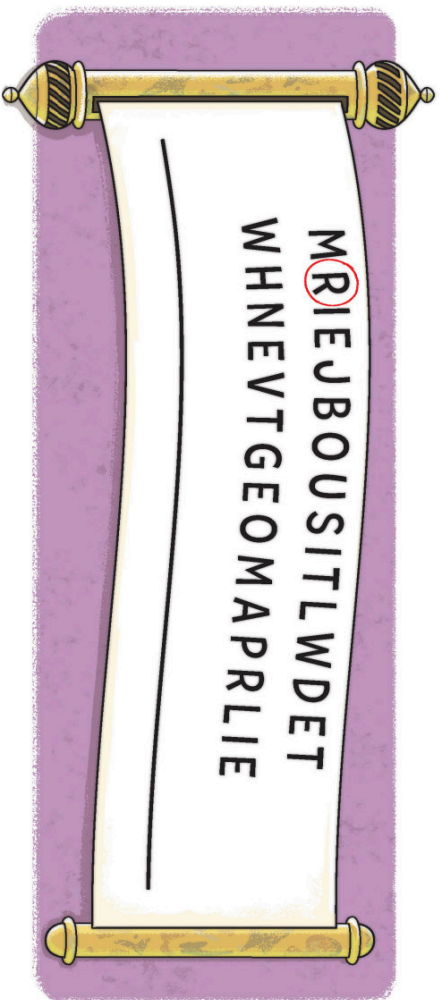
- ▶ List the prophets and the kings of Persia who helped God's people make sure the temple got rebuilt.

- ▶ Why do you think God used foreign kings to help His people rebuild the temple?

- ▶ What did the people do when the temple was finished?

Search It

King Darius searched the royal records for an order from King Cyrus. Circle every other letter to reveal what King Cyrus' order said. The first letter has been circled for you.



Complete It

Use the word bank to fill in the missing words from the Bible story summary.

God's enemies in Judah tried to stop God's people from rebuilding the _____. The enemies lied and said God's people were _____ to the king of Persia. God's people _____ rebuilding the temple until Darius became the king of Persia. God sent the prophet _____ to tell the people to start rebuilding the temple again. The people _____ God's words. Then, _____ sent a letter to King Darius, asking him to search the royal records for an order from King Cyrus. The order said the people were to _____ the temple. The temple was completed, and the people _____ God.

WORD BANK

TATTENAI

HAGGAI

TEMPLE

WORSHIPED

REBUILD

STOPPED

OBEYED

HARMFUL



UNIT 17: HOPE AT HOME

Session 3: The Prophet Zechariah Zechariah



Sunday, January 18

How did God
plan to fix what
sin broke?

Before He created the world, God
planned to send the Messiah.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 25:9

"On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him. Let's rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Monday,
January 19

SESSION 3



Before you read...

- ▶ Zechariah was a prophet at the same time as Ezra. He began speaking to God's people right at the end of their exile. Zechariah's words were an encouragement to the people of God as they rebuilt the temple.
- ▶ Zechariah reminded people that they were building a temple to not only be a place of worship, but a temple that would serve as a reminder of God's everlasting promises.



Read Zechariah 1:1-6

- ▶ Who did Zechariah tell God's people NOT to be like?

- ▶ What does Zechariah tell the people they need to do?

- ▶ How often does God keep His promises?



Before you read...

- ▶ After Zechariah reminded the people to NOT be like their ancestors, Zechariah prophesied about the coming of the Messiah.
- ▶ In this prophecy, Zechariah reminded people that the temple was a foreshadowing of one who would come and bring the presence of God to us. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He made the way to bring people into God's presence forever.



Read Zechariah 6:12-13

- ▶ Who do you think is "the Branch?"

- ▶ What will He be clothed with?

- ▶ He will be a King and also a.... what?

Wednesday,
January 21

SESSION 3



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would sit and rule on His throne as a King and a Priest. Zechariah reminded people that God's kingdom will last forever and that the coming Messiah will reign eternally.



Read Zechariah 9:9

- ▶ Who was coming to God's people?

- ▶ How would He arrive?

- ▶ Challenge: When did this happen? (Look at Matthew 21)



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday, we read that Zechariah told the people their King would come riding on a donkey. This eventually happened hundreds of years later when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
- ▶ Zechariah continues to tell God's people about the Messiah in chapter 12.



Read Zechariah 12:10-13:1

- ▶ In this passage are words like "pierced" and "mourn" and "firstborn son." What event in Jesus' life is Zechariah talking about?

- ▶ What will happen for God's people "on that day"? (Verse 13:1)

- ▶ Have you ever been really, really dirty? Like went down a mudslide dirty? What does it feel like to wash away the dirt?

Friday,
January 23

SESSION 3



Before you read...

- ▶ We have read some of Zechariah's prophecies about when Jesus came the first time. Today we will read Zechariah's prophecy about when Jesus returns again.



Read Zechariah 14:8-9

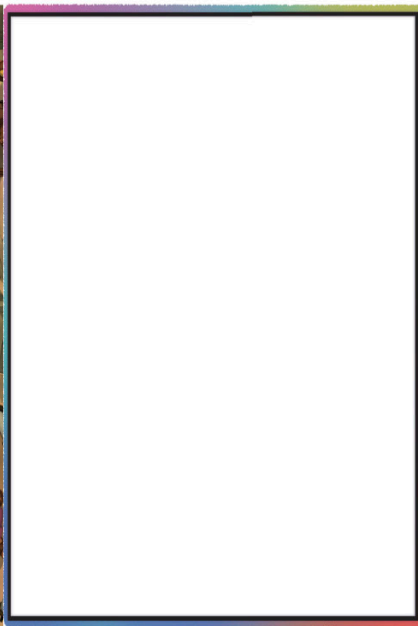
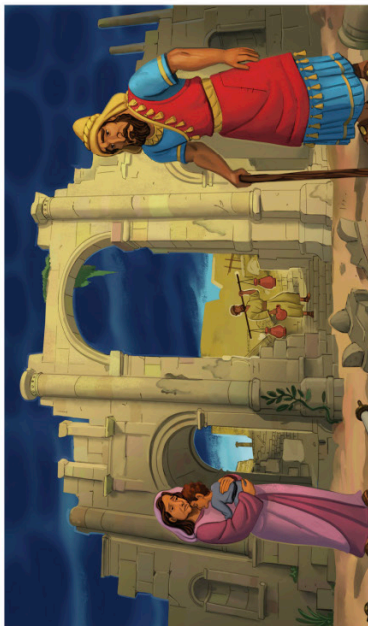
- ▶ What kind of water will flow out of Jerusalem 'on that day?'

- ▶ Have you heard the phrase, 'living water' before? What do you think it means?

- ▶ When the Lord is King over all the earth, what do you think the earth will be like?

A Better Kingdom |

The prophet Zechariah said God would build a better kingdom. Draw a better, restored kingdom where people are loving, compassionate, and kind.



WORDS TO FIND

MESSIAH
MERCIFUL
RIGHTEOUS
PEACEFUL
SAVIOR

COMPASSIONATE
GRACIOUS
LOVING
JUST
HUMBLE

G K O N U X R M H N S C C U L
R Z L I Y Y S S E I N P A I O J U S H O M R E C A
L U R Y V V T J Y G B E O L J U P A S L E R O E F
G U R F I X J Y N P O I A S S I O N A R O Z I
R N F I G M G T A O E L O M J U H S T O N T
H H O I C C H P T M E L O M J U H S T O N T
L R N S A A Z R T E M E L O M J U H S T O N T
K X S A A A M Y L B O L W S Q E D O H
E H K H A A A U Y L B O L W S Q E D O H
G H K H A A A U Y L B O L W S Q E D O H
I M X Q S I E L V O L W S Q E D O H
Y Q S U O I C A R G Q E D O H

A Better King | Jesus is a humble King, who died for people's sin. Use the word bank to find and circle the words that describe King Jesus.

UNIT 17: HOPE AT HOME

Session 4: Esther Saved Her People Esther



Sunday, January 25

How did God
plan to fix what
sin broke?

Before He created the world, God
planned to send the Messiah.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 25:9

"On that day it will be said, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he has saved us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him. Let's rejoice and be glad in his salvation."



Before you read...

- ▶ The book of Esther is set about 100 years after exile. Many Jews had returned to Jerusalem, but some were still living in the cities of their exile. The book of Esther doesn't mention God. But, it's very clear that He is in control and working to save His people.
- ▶ Here are some people you should know:
 - The king of Persia, Xerxes/Ahasuerus. The spelling of his name depends on the Bible translation you are reading. He isn't one of God's people.
 - Haman, the evil royal advisor to the king. He isn't one of God's people.
 - Mordecai, Esther's cousin who raised her after her parents died. He is a Jew, one of God's people.
 - Esther, a Jew, and also the new queen of Persia.



Read Esther 2:21-23

- ▶ What did Mordecai overhear while he was sitting at the king's gate?

- ▶ Who did Mordecai tell this information that he overheard?

- ▶ Though the king of Persia wasn't a Jew, like Mordecai and Esther, Mordecai did the right thing and told about the evil plan against the king. How do you think the king felt about Mordecai after this?

Tuesday,
January 27

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ Yesterday we read about Mordecai and Esther saving the king of Persia from a plot to kill him. The king did not know that Queen Esther and Mordecai were Jews.
- ▶ Today we'll read about Haman, the evil royal advisor. Haman was an Agagite, who were enemies of God's people and hated the Jews.



Read Esther 3:1-4

- ▶ What did Mordecai refuse to do?

- ▶ Why do you think Mordecai refused to do this?

- ▶ How do you think Haman felt about Mordecai's refusal?
(You can read verse 5 to find out.)



Before you read...

- ▶ We've learned that Mordecai helped save the king of Persia from an evil plot and also refused to kneel and honor the king's royal advisor, Haman. Haman was very angry at Mordecai and made an order throughout the whole kingdom that all Jews (God's people) would be killed on the 13th of the month of Adar, in about 11 months.
- ▶ Mordecai wanted Esther to help their people, God's people, and speak to the king about Haman's order to kill the Jews. But, no one was allowed to approach the king unless he called on them, not even the queen! If a person came to the king without permission, they would be killed.



Read Esther 4:12-17

- ▶ In verse 14, we can see that Mordecai is confident that God will deliver His people, whether Esther helps or not. Why do you think Mordecai was so confident in God's deliverance? (Hint: God always keeps God's _____!)

- ▶ What did Esther ask Mordecai and all the Jews to do in verse 16?

- ▶ What will Esther do after the three days?

Thursday,
January 29

SESSION 4



Before you read...

- ▶ The king didn't kill Esther when she approached him. He was willing to listen to her! Check out Esther chapter 5 to read about it.
- ▶ Esther asked to host a banquet with the king and Haman. At that banquet, Esther asked to host another banquet with them on the next day. Between the two banquets, the king couldn't sleep and had his book of records read to him. While listening, the king realized he never honored Mordecai for saving his life.
- ▶ Remember, Haman hated Mordecai and had ordered all of the Jews to be killed.



Read Esther 6:6-11

- ▶ Who did Haman think the king wanted to honor at first? (verse 6)

- ▶ But the king actually wanted to honor Mordecai. What did Haman have to do for Mordecai? (verse 11)

- ▶ Describe how Haman must have felt while he was leading Mordecai around to honor him.



Before you read...

- ▶ Queen Esther held her second banquet and told the king of Haman's order to kill her and all of the Jews on the 13th day of the month Adar. The king was furious and ordered for Haman to be hanged (Read chapter 8 for the whole story).
- ▶ Though Haman died, the order to kill all the Jews was still in effect. So Esther asked the king to make a new order that said the Jews could defend themselves and attack anyone who tried to kill them.
- ▶ Today we will read what happened on the 13th of Adar when the Jews were supposed to die.



Read Esther 9:1-4

- ▶ What did the enemies of God's people hope to do on the 13th of Adar?

- ▶ But what happened instead?

- ▶ Who gave the Jews the power to overcome their enemies?

That's Not Right | It wasn't right that Haman planned to hurt God's people. Look at the Bible story picture and circle the 10 items that aren't right.



All Scrambled | Unscramble the words from today's Bible story. Then arrange the circled words in the spaces below to reveal the secret message.

MROEDACI

KNIG

ETESHR

HMAAN

POEPEL

— () — () — () — () —

— () — () — () — () —

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