



## Building Up the Temple

**WORSHIP** We thank God for His love.

### Power Text

“Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work” (1 Chronicles 28:10, NIV).

### Key Texts and References

Ezra 4-6; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 567-581; student story on page 58 of this guide.

### Objectives

#### The students will:

**Know** that God is with them when they are discouraged.

**Feel** like praising God for never leaving them.

**Respond** by persevering in God’s strength in times of discouragement.

### Power Point



We can worship God even when we are discouraged.

## Getting Ready to Teach

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Israelites begin to rebuild the Temple. Satan stirs up the people around Jerusalem, who try to stop them. God sends two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to encourage and work with the people.

At first the people of God are discouraged, but with God’s help they persevere. They complete the rebuilding and dedicate the Temple.

### *This is a lesson about worship.*

We thank God today that He is with us in times of discouragement as well as in times of joy. Difficulties and discouragement are not excuses to stop worshiping God. We worship God through the difficulties, praising Him for the solution that will surely come.

# SIX

<b>Program Notes</b>			
<b>Lesson Section</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Materials Needed</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
<b>1</b> <b>Readiness</b>	10-15	A. <i>Empty Lives</i>  B. <i>Builders</i>	Small empty box, newspaper, wrapping paper, ribbons, tape Construction materials, scissors, glue and/or tape, paper
<b>*</b> <b>Prayer and Praise*</b>	15-20	See page 55. <b>*Prayer and Praise</b> may be used at any time during the program.	Paper, pencils
<b>2</b> <b>Bible Lesson</b>	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Three copies of <i>Net Kids</i> script
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, props (optional)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
<b>3</b> <b>Applying the Lesson</b>	10-15	<i>Silent Challenge</i>	
<b>4</b> <b>Sharing the Lesson</b>	10-15	<i>Encourage One Another</i>	Chalkboard or whiteboard and writing utensils, art supplies (optional)

## Teacher Enrichment

"Close by the Israelites who had set themselves to the task of rebuilding the Temple, dwelt the Samaritans, a mixed race that had sprung up through the intermarriage of heathen colonists from the provinces of Assyria with the remnant of the ten tribes which had been left in Samaria and Galilee. In later years the Samaritans claimed to worship the true God; but in heart and practice they were idolaters. . . .

"During the period of the restoration, these Samaritans . . . expressed a desire to unite with [the Israelites] in [the Temple's] erection. . . . But had the Jewish leaders accepted this offer of assis-

tance, they would have opened a door for the entrance of idolatry" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 567, 568).

"As the people endeavored to do their part, and sought for a renewal of God's grace in heart and life, message after message was given them through Haggai and Zechariah, with assurances that their faith would be richly rewarded and that the Word of God concerning the future glory of the Temple whose walls they were rearing, would not fail" (*ibid.*, p. 577).

*What is most discouraging to me today? How has this situation affected my reliance on God? What choices can I make to worship even when I am discouraged?*

## Teaching the Lesson

### Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their table/small group leader. Have leader ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Then debrief student(s) on their Bible study activities last week. Say: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** (The leader should know what the students' activities were for the past week so he/she can direct discussion.)

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



### Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

#### You Need:

- small empty box
- newspaper
- gift wrapping paper
- ribbons
- cellophane tape

#### A. Empty Lives

Beforehand, fill a small box with wadded newspaper and then gift-wrap it. Then wrap it again with newspaper. Continue alternating as many layers of newspaper and gift wrap as you are able or as many as there are students in your class. Wrap the final layer in attractive colored or wrapping paper.

Say: **I have a present for the class this morning.** Pass the box to one of the students to open. Allow them to open only one layer. Then pass it on to another and another until they have reached the crumpled newspaper inside the box. Wait a few minutes until the students realize that the box is empty. Listen quietly to their reaction and their disappointment.

#### Debriefing

Ask: **What were you feeling when you started opening the wrap?** (happy; expectant; curious) **How did your feelings change when you found there was nothing in the box?** (disappointed) **How is that like life?** (empty; disappointing)

Say: **We all get discouraged at times, we all feel as though life has not been fair, but:**



**We can worship God even when we are discouraged.**

#### B. Builders

#### You Need:

- building materials (see activity)
- scissors
- glue and/or tape
- paper

Have available various materials that could be used to construct a tabletop building, such as miniature marshmallows and toothpicks, thick pretzels and glue, or any combination of the following: blocks, clay, twigs, stones, glue, paper, cardboard, scissors, tape, popsicle/craft sticks.

Say: **First Corinthians 3:9 says, "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building" (NIV). If this is true, what would you as God's building look like? Using the materials provided, take a couple minutes to construct God's building as you see it.**

**Debriefing**

Ask: **How does your building look compared to another in the class? When we are working on a project, how does our mood affect the outcome?**

**How easy is it to accomplish a goal, or to worship God when we feel discouraged? Today we are learning that:**



We can worship God even when we are discouraged.

## Prayer and Praise

**Fellowship**

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week.

Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

**Suggested Songs**

"Unto Thee, O Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 102)

"Spirit Song" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 72)

"Freedom" (*Praise Time*, No. 65)

"Be Thou My Vision" (*The SDA Hymnal*, No. 547)

**Mission**

Use *Teen Mission* or another mission report available to you.

**Offering**

Say: **Each week when we bring our offerings, the money goes throughout the world to share the good news of Jesus gift with others who may be sad and discouraged.**

**Prayer**

Say: **Write something on your paper that you know causes some kids to become discouraged. It may be something that you are experiencing or something that a friend might be going through.**

Collect all the papers, then redistribute them at random. Tell the students that this is a sacred time and you want complete silence, even if they get their own paper back. If the class is large, divide it into groups of two or three students. You begin and end the prayer. Have the students close their eyes and each pray a short prayer about the prayer requests.

**You Need:**

- paper
- pencils

\* Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

**Bible Lesson**

**Introducing the Bible Story**  
**The Net Kids**

**You Need:**

- three copies of *Net Kids* script

(Refer to Lesson 1 for background and setup information.) Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found at the back of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit on page 132.

**Debriefing:**

Ask: **What rumors have been spread about you? How did that feel?**

Say: **Be very careful that you don't spread or believe rumors about others. This can be very hurtful. Our lesson shows how rumors stopped the people from building the Temple for a long time. One thing we can learn from this is that:**



*We can worship God even when we are discouraged.*

**Experiencing the Story**

**You Need:**

- Bibles
- props (optional)

Divide the class into three groups. Assign Ezra 4 to group one, Ezra 5 to group two, and Ezra 6 to group three. Within their groups they should read the chapters and then report in their own words to the whole class what went on to discourage the Israelites from building. (Optional: This could be done in the form of a skit, story, song, or role play using whatever props are available.)

**Debriefing**

Ask: **What did the people do who tried to discourage the Israelites?**

(They were sneaky; they paid people to scare them into not building; they had had nothing to do with the Israelites or the Temple building before complaining about them; they lied about the Israelites being a threat to the king and the country.) **How did Artaxerxes handle their complaints?** (He didn't investigate thoroughly; he listened to the words of the complainers, and the work stopped.) **How did Darius handle the complaints?** (He found the original document; he told the complainers to stay away from the building site; he told them to pay the Israelites expenses from the treasury and give the Israelites whatever they needed; he threatened death to anyone who changed his orders.) **What can we learn from this about handling complainers?** (Trust God; neither believe nor spread rumors; keep believing in our mission; listen and then search diligently for all the facts; seek the help of those in power.)

**Exploring the Bible**

**You Need:**

- Bibles

Ask: **Can you think of anyone in the Bible who was discouraged?** (Jonah, Job, David, Jesus, Paul)

**How did they get over their discouragement?**

Say: **Let's read about how they did it.** Have the students locate and read: Job 42:2 (by deciding to trust in God); Jonah 2:1-10 (through prayer—however, point out that Jonah got discouraged again after he did what he was supposed to do [some people may never learn]); Psalm 51 (through repentance and confession [verses 10-13 could be sung]); Philippians 4:4-7, 11-13 (through rejoicing/praising God in all circumstances; realizing that we can do everything God asks us to do in His strength).

## 3

## Applying the Lesson

### **Silent Challenge**

Have students pair up and hold their partner's hand, then all stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle holding hands only with their partners. (This is best when circles are formed with groups of eight to ten.)

With their free hand each student reaches into the center of the circle and grasps another free hand. To untangle the resulting "knot" the leader breaks up one of the original pairs, taking one person by the hand and leading the person slowly away. Without letting go of hands, the persons in the circle follow in the order they are linked until another complete circle is achieved. This should be done without talking.

### **Debriefing**

Ask: **How did you feel when you were trying to untangle yourselves**

**and weren't able to talk?** (frustrated)

**Did knowing you couldn't talk**

**make it harder?** (yes; no; somewhat)

**In what ways?** (It seemed like it would take forever; it is no fun if you can't talk.)

**How was this exercise like what the Temple builders went through?**

**How was it like being discouraged?**

(Accept reasonable answers.)

Say: **God has given us promises and stories in the Bible to encourage us in dark times. Like the Temple builders,**



**We can worship God even when we are discouraged.**

(Small church option: invite an adult class to join you for the activity. Let the adults tell about ways that they have overcome discouragement.)

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### **Encourage One Another**

Say: **We have learned today how easy it is to become discouraged in life. Think of an encouraging phrase to give to someone who is discouraged. I'll give you a few minutes to think, and then we'll write them on the board.** (Examples: You can do all things through Christ. Nothing is impossible with God. Is anything too hard for the Lord? The joy of the Lord is your strength. Hang in there. This too shall pass.) A volunteer scribe

can write the responses where all can see.

Say: **You may want to write some of these in your Bible study journal so you can share them. This coming week find one person with whom you can share your encouraging phrase.**

**Option:** Write one of the above messages on a bumper sticker, card, or poster; decorate it and present it to someone you know who may be feeling discouraged.

### **You Need:**

- chalk and chalkboard OR large paper and marker
- art supplies (optional)

### **Closing**

Praise and thank God for bringing us through times of discouragement.

## STUDENT LESSON

# Building Up the Temple

**Key Text**  
Ezra 4-6

**Power Text**

“Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work” (1 Chronicles 28:10, NIV).

**Power Point**

**We can worship God even when we are discouraged.**

*Has anyone ever slowed you down when you were excited about a project? How did you handle that person? If you had been living at the time the Temple was being rebuilt, how might you feel? We are continuing the story of the family we imagined in the previous lesson.*

Tabitha picked up the basket that held lunch for her brother and father and started down the path to the Temple.

As she neared Sarah’s house, her friend called out, “Tabitha, wait for me. I have to take lunch to my father too.”

It didn’t take long for them to reach the Temple. As they ate their lunches, Tabitha listened to the men.

“I don’t know what Zerubbabel is going to do about the Samaritans’ request,” Father said to the other men. “But I don’t believe we should let them work with us.”

“Zerubbabel is against this too. I talked with him this morning,” Sarah’s father said. “He wants us to meet together right after lunch.”

“Father,” Tabitha asked, “wouldn’t it be good to have other people to help on the Temple? It would get done faster that way.”

“Yes, it would be faster,” Father said, “but these Samaritans worship idols and they would try to bring those into the Temple with them. It’s best that we keep ourselves separate from them.”

At supper that night Father reported, “We told the Samaritans that they couldn’t help with the Temple. I’m afraid they will cause trouble, though. They weren’t happy when we said no.”

It didn’t take long for the Samaritans to start making things difficult. They began to spread nasty, unkind rumors.

A lot of the men stopped working on the Temple. The Israelite families continued to pray that God would intervene and that the Samaritans would leave them alone. But the lies continued for

several years. Everyone became so discouraged that building on the Temple stopped completely.

One day Samuel, Tabitha’s brother, came home, shouting, “I heard wonderful news today! King Darius said we may start building the Temple again!”

Father and Samuel were back at the Temple early the next day. But the excitement didn’t last for long.

“Sarah, can you believe it!” Tabitha said a few days later as she worked on weaving a rug. “Those troublemakers! They wrote another letter to King Darius and told him that we Jews were going to revolt once we get the Temple built.”

“I know,” Sarah said, spinning the wool for Tabitha’s weaving. “But God has intervened and the men can keep working until we get a reply from the king.”

“Yes, this time they also gave the officials the information that Cyrus had ordered that the Temple was supposed to be rebuilt. I wonder if that will make any difference,” Tabitha mused.

“It might. You know the prophets Haggai and Zechariah are trying to encourage everyone,” Tabitha added.

Again rumors flew fast. Some people said that Darius would make the Jews stop working on the Temple. Others said they thought he would allow it to be finished.

Several weeks went by. Tabitha was on her way to the Temple with lunch again when suddenly a large crowd of people surrounded her. Listening to the conversations around her, Tabitha soon discovered that King Darius had sent an answer.

It didn’t take long for the group to assemble at the Temple steps.

The crowd grew quiet. One could feel the suspense hanging heavy in the air.

The prophet Haggai began to read, "To all the officials of the Trans-Euphrates territory: Stay away from the province of Judah. Do not interfere with the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem. Let the governor of Judah and his associates rebuild the Temple of God on its original site."

The crowd roared at these words. They could finish the Temple! As Haggai read further, they heard that King Darius had instructed the officials to help the Jews with supplies.

Everyone wanted to help finish rebuilding the Temple. After several more years of work, the task was done and the dedication was held.

The morning of the dedication Tabitha, now a woman, dressed in her finest clothes. "Can you believe it?" she exclaimed. "Today has finally arrived! So many years ago we left Babylon, and now we are going to worship in our own Temple. God was with us during all those difficult years and He will be with us in its dedication."

"I'm glad God is always with us," her husband agreed. "Let's hurry. We don't want to miss any of the ceremony."

### Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 39.

### Sunday

- Read "Building Up the Temple."
- Say the power text out loud. Take a walk and repeat it over and over.
- What might the Lord have chosen you for?
- Pray about each part of the text. Ask God to show you what He has chosen for you to do.

### Monday

- Read Ezra 4.
- Have you ever received a message telling you to stop doing something you like doing? How did you like that? What did you do? How do you think the Jews felt?
- Ask God to be with you when someone tries to stop you from doing something He wants you to do. Ask Him to help you praise Him even when you feel discouraged.

### Tuesday

- Read Ezra 5.
- Look up the word "tattle" in the dictionary. Who in Ezra 5 does it remind you of?
- How do you feel when someone tattles on you? Have you ever tattled on anyone?
- Remember, however, to speak to a trusted adult if someone is doing or threatening to do something to harm themselves.
- Thank God for being with you and prompting you to serve and worship Him.

### Wednesday

- Read Ezra 6:1-12.
- The truth always wins, but sometimes it takes time. Ask an adult to tell you an experience they had with discouragement.
- We can praise God even when we are discouraged.
- Praise God for making a way out of tough situations.

### Thursday

- Read Ezra 6:13-22.
- How did the Israelites celebrate the building of the Temple?
- What can you do to celebrate the Temple God is helping you build? Record your celebration in your Bible study journal.
- Thank God for being able to celebrate His love and care for you.

### Friday

- The Jews never gave up their dream of rebuilding the Temple. They persevered even though they were discouraged because they wanted to worship God. What dream might your family need to persevere with?
- Get together with your family and create a banner that encourages you to persevere. With their permission, take it to Sabbath School to show to your class.
- Ask God to help your family persevere and worship Him even when discouraged.