

# EZRA 4-6, HAGGAI - THE TEMPLE WAS REBUILT

## KIDS' LIFEGROUP GUIDE

WEEK: 1/12/20 - 1/18/20

### OVERVIEW:

- **Part 1:** Catch Up On Life (15 Minutes)
- **Part 2:** Kidtown Lesson Review (15 Minutes)
- **Part 3:** Reflection (15 Minutes)
  - Optional - Part 3a: Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)
  - Optional - Part 3b: Snack (5 Minutes)
  - Optional - Part 3c: Sing (5 Minutes)
- **Part 4:** Prayer Time! (20 Minutes)

### PART 1: CATCH UP ON LIFE (15 minutes)

**Setting:** Sit in a circle with kids and adults interspersed! Adults sitting amongst the kids helps everyone engage and pay attention. Parents - you are always responsible for your kids, but you're also looking to engage with other kids in your group.

- *Leader Note: If your group eats dinner with your kids, this is the best part of the guide to do together while you eat. Add 15 minutes for everyone to get their plates and start eating. Then shift into intentional conversation as the kids are starting to finish their food.*

**Vision:** God calls the church -- and our LifeGroup -- to be family! Because of this, we want our kids to know our adults and our adults to know our kids. The best way to get to know each other is to ask each other questions and tell each other about our lives.

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, you can ask kids if they remember why we ask each other questions. Help them to remember that God's making us family, so we want to get to know each other.*

#### Questions:

- 1.) What was your high and low from the week?
- 2.) **Kids Pick!** Let each kid ask the adults in the group one question.
  - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Kids to ask Adults if they're having a hard time thinking of any.
- 3.) **Adults Pick!** Have each adult ask the kids in the group one question.
  - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Adults to ask Kids if they're having a hard time thinking of any.

## PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (15 minutes)

**Vision:** God uses the Bible to show Himself to us. He also uses it to help us love Him and others better. We don't only want to learn *about* the Bible; we're also called to apply it to our lives -- to change the way we think (Head), what we love and value (Heart) and what we do (Hands).

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, ask kids if they remember why we study the Bible.*

**Lesson:** The Temple Was Rebuilt

**Bible Passages:** Ezra 4-6, Haggai

### REVIEW:

- 1.) **Kids what do you remember from the story you learned about on Sunday?** (Pause and let them think of what they can remember.)
- 2.) **Can anyone remember the main characters?**
  - God/Jesus! (*Leader Note: Almost always a right answer. Helps reinforce that the entire Bible is about God and points forward to Jesus*)
  - God's people, Haggai and Zechariah, Zerubbabel, King Cyrus, King Darius, Governor Tattenai
- 3.) **Ok, does anyone remember any of the story points?**

**Story Point #1:** God's people wanted to rebuild the temple as a place they could meet with God.

**Story Point #2:** Rebuilding the temple got hard so they stopped.

**Story Point #3:** God used King Cyrus to provide everything they needed to rebuild.
- 4.) **Awesome! And can anyone remember how this story connected to Jesus?**

**Christ Connection:** Like God used King Cyrus, God sent King Jesus to make a way for us to be with God forever.

**Transition:** That was awesome! Ya'll did a great job remembering. Ok let's watch the video and see if we remember anything we forgot or notice anything new this time.

### WATCH THE VIDEO STORY:

Click [here](#) to watch the Gospel Project Video Story.

### TALK THROUGH THE STORY POINTS:

*Leader Note: If your kids are younger, it helps to give them journals. For each question, have them write their answers first and then go around the circle and share.*

**Leader Note:** Say each story point and have the kids repeat it.

**Story Point #1:** God's people wanted to rebuild the temple as a place they could meet with God.

- Question: Do we meet with God in a temple today? *No! Why not? We don't have to because God sent His son Jesus and then His Holy Spirit who lives inside of those who believe--not inside of a building!*
- Question: Where can we meet with and worship God? *Everywhere! However, we still go to Midtown/Kidtown on Sundays because that's a special time that we can get together with our church family to meet with, learn about and worship God together! The same is true for LifeGroup group times!*

## PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (CONTINUED)

### Story Point #2: Rebuilding the temple got hard so they stopped.

- Question: Does God always makes everything in our lives easy? *No! Why not? There are a lot of answers to this! For one thing, we know that hard things can be good for us and we grow through doing hard things. For another, we live in a world that is affected by sin! What other reasons can you think of?*

### Story Point #3: God used King Cyrus to provide everything they needed to rebuild.

- Question: What did King Cyrus give to God's people? *Money! Rebuilding the temple would have cost a lot, but King Cyrus, who wasn't even one of God's people, gave them as much as they needed! And then King Darius ordered Tattenai to stop bothering them!*

### REVIEW THE CHRIST CONNECTION AND APPLY IT:

#### Christ Connection: Like God used King Cyrus, God sent King Jesus to make a way for us to be with God forever!

- Teach: How cool is that?! Like we said before, we don't need a temple or any place specifically to meet with God because for those who believe in Him, He lives inside them! This is only possible because of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and then raising again.
- Pray: Let's pause right now and thank God for this!

#### Main Application(s): We can keep trying when life is hard because God gives us everything we need.

- Adults first then kids - What in your life is hard?
- Adults first then kids - What can you do to remember that God has given you everything you need?

### PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE:

Ask any of the kids if they can remember the key passage. Help lead them through it leaving out words and see if they can fill them in.

For I know the plans I have for you—this is the Lord's declaration—plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**Jeremiah 29:11**

## PART 3: REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

## OPTIONAL - PART 3a: LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: “I’m building a temple”

Invite the children to sit down in a circle. Begin by saying, “I’m building a temple today, and I need a \_\_\_\_\_.” Fill in the blank with a type of tool that you would use along with a hand motion that describes that tool. Encourage the next child to say, “I’m building a temple today, and I need a \_\_\_\_\_.” Say your original statement again. Continue around the circle until every child has had the opportunity to add a tool and a hand motion. Be prepared to offer suggestions of tools and to help preschoolers remember their friends’ tools. Tool ideas include a hammer, saw, screwdriver, wrench, brick, bulldozer, wheelbarrow, sledge hammer, and paintbrush.

Say • Today, we gather to worship God in different buildings like church buildings, schools and homes. In today’s Bible story, God’s people rebuilt the temple so they would have a special place to worship God.

### OPTION 2: Build a temple with blocks.

Place several varieties of building blocks in different areas around the room, such as on the floor or on small tables. Lead the children to work in teams of two to three to build a temple with the blocks.

Say • We pretended to build a temple with our blocks. God’s people rebuilt the temple so that they would have a place to worship God. Even when other people tried to stop God’s people from building the temple, Haggai and Zechariah said, “Keep building. God is with you.” Jesus gave us something better than a temple; He gave Himself. Jesus is with us wherever we go.

## OPTIONAL - PART 3b: SNACK (5 minutes)

If your group doesn’t eat dinner together, now is a great time to stop for a snack break before spending time praying together and talking about living on mission. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks in case a kid has Gluten allergies.

## OPTIONAL - PART 3c: SING (5 minutes)

Play one or more of these videos and sing and dance along!

- [Father You are All We Need](#)
- [A Future and A Hope](#) (Key Passage Song)

## PART 4: PRAYER TIME! (20 minutes)

### PRAY FOR EACH OTHER: (10 minutes)

**Vision:** God calls His people to love each other, pray for each other and help each other carry burdens.

#### Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

**Pray:** Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

### PRAY FOR JESUS' MISSION: (10 minutes)

**Vision:** God calls His people to share with others the good news of Jesus. This means that we try to love others with our actions and with our words. We want all our friends to know about Jesus and His great love for them.

#### Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?
- Who could we invite to do something fun with our LifeGroup friends this month?

**Pray:** Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!