

# THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

## CHAPTER 19

**Timeless Truth:** Putting God's business first brings prosperity.

**Bible Basis:** Ezra 1-6; Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1; 8

**Key Verse:** "They will be my people. I will be their faithful God. I will keep my promises to them"  
Zechariah 8:8, NIRV

**Parent Tips:** Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table at some point this week, and/or use the questions inside your books. Pick the questions that work best for your family. The Living Faith section (on the back) is a fun activity for you to do.

### GET THE POINT

**Preschool/Elementary:** God's people promise to follow his ways. God wants me to follow him.

**Middle School/High School:** Serving God can take hard work and effort—but it's worth it.

### TABLE TALK

#### Preschool/Elementary

- The first people to move back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple became frustrated at its progress and concentrated on building houses for themselves instead. The prophet Haggai told them if they served God first by building his house, then their crops and work would be blessed. Why do you think it's important to put God ahead of your personal needs?
- Do you believe God controls everything?
- Name some things that God controls and how that affects your life?
- God's people pitched in their gold and silver to make God's temple magnificent. Talk about a time when you worked together with friends to accomplish a big task. Did it work better when everyone shared?
- How does it make you feel when you give something of value to another person?

#### Middle/High School

(Other side)



Good Shepherd  
Lutheran  
Church

For more resources, go to  
[GoodShepherdHenning.org/story](http://GoodShepherdHenning.org/story)

## **Middle School/High School**

- Cyrus, the king of Persia, encouraged God's people to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Lord's temple. About 50,000 people went back to start the project. When the foundation was laid, some of God's people cried and others shouted with joy. Talk about a time when you cried tears of joy. Can you remember a time that you shouted with joy?
- People in the surrounding areas didn't want the temple rebuilt. They tried to stop the building. Have you ever known God wanted you to do something and had others stand in your way? What did you do? What was the end result?
- In the ultimate backfire, governors in nearby areas went to King Darius to see if King Cyrus had truly decreed that God's people could rebuild the temple. They hoped Darius would stop the building. Instead he found Cyrus' decree and made these governors give money and supplies to build the temple. Obviously, God's plan trumped the governors'. How do you think the governors felt?
- Have you ever had a plan backfire?
- What does this story teach about God's plans?

### **Living Faith**

God's second temple wasn't as awe-inspiring as Solomon's temple, but its majesty was renowned. As a family, build your own temple using graham crackers and icing. You'll need a small piece of poster board, a couple of boxes of graham crackers, icing and candy to decorate it.

An effective icing consists of one pound of powdered sugar, one teaspoon of cream of tartar and three egg whites. These ingredients need to be beaten on low speed until the mixture becomes stiff.

Begin setting up the foundation by smearing a lot of frosting on the poster board. Set several crackers in it as walls. Keep adding walls with a good amount of frosting on the bottom until you've finished your base. Now start building up. Look online for artists' renderings of the second temple or have fun making up your own design. Remember to use plenty of icing as "glue" to hold everything together. Once you're finished building the structure, let it dry before decorating the outside with frosting and candy. You can add food coloring to the frosting to create different colors. Use your favorite candy to decorate the temple and remind yourself of the great worth of God's house.

As you build the temple, talk about your church.

- What is your favorite part of your church?
- What's the most memorable thing you've learned about God in the last month?
- Is there somebody at church that you should spend a special thank-you to? If so, do it.