



Unit 12, Lesson 45

TODAY'S EPIC STORY: EZRA

EZRA 1:1-5; 3—6

THE STORY HOME

After living in exile for 70 years, Cyrus the king of Persia said the Israelites should rebuild the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. The heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin and lots of other people prepared to go to Israel to rebuild the Temple. They worked hard to build the Temple just as God had instructed. Some people tried to stop the rebuilding of the Temple, but after several years, it was finished. The priests and Levites were put back in their positions and the Passover was celebrated.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Cyrus, king of Persia, was the most powerful ruler in the world at that time and he wasn't Jewish. Why do you think he said the Temple should be rebuilt in Jerusalem?
- Share a WOW! What surprises you, amazes you, or seems really cool about how God worked in this story?
- Would you have wanted to go back to your homeland and work really hard to rebuild the Temple, or stay in the only place you'd ever known even though you were in captivity?
- How do you think God felt when the Temple was completed?
How did God's people feel?

TOGETHER HOME

When the Temple was finished, it was time to celebrate the Passover, which was first celebrated right before Pharaoh let Moses and the Israelites leave Egypt. Jews continued to celebrate Passover every year. Jesus even celebrated the Passover right before His death and resurrection. Taste a few of these traditional Passover foods together: unleavened bread, horseradish, a mixture of apple, nuts and cinnamon, a roasted egg, parsley or celery, and lamb.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

“The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘When I will make a new covenant... I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:31, 33)

Use some toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, or wrapping paper rolls as trumpets. Blow them loudly. Then, say this verse together. March around your yard or house blowing your trumpets and repeating God's declaration.

Copyright © 2013 by WordAction Publishing Company®. Permission to copy for local church use only. All other uses contact the publisher. All rights reserved.
All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

OT Unit 12, Lesson 45, Take-home