



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

January 19, 2012

What We're Learning This Week

“THE TEMPLE WAS REBUILT” EZRA 4-6

God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, where we discussed that Zerubbabel led God's people back to the temple to rebuild it. The temple was the place where God met with His people on earth. Jesus came to earth to rescue God's people. One day Jesus will return to restore a greater home for all of God's people, and we will spend eternity with Him [here](#).
- Read through Ezra 4-6. Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you + for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week.

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. The people in Jerusalem tried to discourage the exiles from rebuilding the temple and the exiles began to get discouraged because their work was hard and they doubted God's timing. God's prophets encouraged them to keep building the temple.
 - The completion of the temple shows that God fulfills His promises and that He was always with the exiles despite their earthly opposition. Where else in the bible has God fulfilled His promises? What does it tell us about who He is?

- Jesus was an example of a fulfilled promise from the Lord. After Jesus came down to earth and rose again, we no longer needed a temple to experience God's presence. The exiles praised and worshipped the Lord after completing the temple. How can we worship and praise God for giving us the gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
2. The workers in Jerusalem continued to try to rebuild the temple because they knew that this is where they could be with the presence of God and that was more important to them than anything else. God's presence dwelled in the temple.
- Where do we know that God dwells now, through the Holy Spirit? What does it mean that God dwells in us?
 - Have there been times when you have felt God's presence? When does God say that He will be with us?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Spend time this week being focusing on God's presence, knowing that He hears your prayers.
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed.
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED “RETURN TO THE LAND”) IS JEREMIAH 29:11.

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*
 - “I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11
- For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:

- "I know the thoughts that I think towards you ... thoughts ... to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God's Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What's Coming Up?

- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#)
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word "Kids" to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well.