

THE CAPTIVES CAME HOME

Ezra 1 - 3
Unit 17, Lesson 2

WHAT WE LEARNED

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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Throughout these passages, it is clear that God is a God who keeps His promises. The people in exile had to obediently wait 70 years to return home.**
 - Were there other times in the Bible when God followed through with His promises to His people? What are some examples of this?
 - Are there things that God has promised us as we grow in our patience and obedience? Has Jesus made promises to us? Will He keep these promises? What does that tell us about who He is?
 - How do you feel when you need to wait? How does God strengthen us while we wait?
- 2. When the exiled people were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, some of them became sad because they remembered what the temple had looked like before but God fulfilled a new promise and allowed them to build a new temple where they could be close to Him.**
 - Did God care about the appearance of the temple or was the purpose of the temple to be near God's presence? Does God care about appearances or material things?
 - The people rejoice and praise God for the rebuilt temple. When is a time that you praised God for a gift that he gave you? Do we rejoice over the gift of Jesus that God has given us?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT

"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

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time this week praising God for the ways that He is committed to His people and the ways He has redeemed us. Pray together that God would bring new life and new hope to members of your family, your neighbors, and our city through the Gospel.

Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer for. Have someone to pray for that person’s request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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