

PEOPLE SANG TO GOD



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

Include the children in the distribution of the snack. Ask for one or more volunteers to pray. Lead the boys and girls to clean up after the snack.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

Encourage the children to move to group time while pretending to hammer. Guide the children to sit in a circle and listen as you tell a Bible story about a group of people who rebuilt a special church.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

PEOPLE SANG TO GOD—BASED ON EZRA 2:68–3:13

- » Open the Bible to Ezra 2 and lay the Bible in your lap. Encourage the children to listen to find out how people helped rebuild the temple and how they celebrated.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

- » The people in Jerusalem wanted to rebuild the temple (church).
- » All of the people worked together to build the temple.
- » Some people gave money and others gave food and drink to the workers building the temple.
- » After they worked awhile, the people put on special clothes and celebrated.
- » They played trumpets and cymbals and sang to God.
- » The people sang, “God is good. God loves us.”
- » The people were happy the temple was being rebuilt. Some people shouted thank-you words to God and some people cried.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- » What did the people in Jerusalem want to build?
- » How did the people work together to rebuild the temple?
- » Why do you think they stop and celebrate?
- » What instruments did they play when they celebrated?
- » What did the people sing?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- » Tell the children that God hears His people praise Him.

ROOM

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER(S)

DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God hears me when I pray.

LIFE POINT

God hears His people praise Him.

UNIT VERSE

When we pray, God hears us. *1 John 5:14*

WEEKLY VERSE

Praise God for He is good. *Psalms 135:3*

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “Happy Birthday”:

Praise God. He is good.

Praise God. He is good.

Praise God. Praise God.

Praise God. He is good.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Open the Bible to Psalm 135:3 and repeat the verse while you clap a rhythm. Lead the children to clap the rhythm with you and repeat the verse. Continue repeating the verse while challenging the children to repeat the verse louder, softer, slower, and then faster.

PRAY

Thank God for your church building. Invite the preschoolers to say a thank-you prayer aloud.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: God hears His people praise Him.

- 1. Paint a church.** Spread a plastic cloth on a table and set a large cardboard box on the cloth. Set containers of washable paint on the table. Suggest to children that the box is a church that needs to be rebuilt. Invite them to paint the church. Help them put on a smock before painting. Encourage the children to tell you what they remember about the Bible story. Provide help as needed. Remind the children God hears His people praise Him.
- 2. Play musical instruments.** Sit on the floor with a basket of instruments. Repeat “God hears his people praise Him” to the children as they gather around. Open the Bible to Ezra 2. Tell the children that our story today was in a book in the Bible called Ezra. Comment that the people in Jerusalem played instruments to praise God because they were happy to rebuild the temple. Hand the children instruments and encourage them to play a song of praise.
- 3. Wear a Bible costume.** Show the teaching picture (if available) or show a picture of the temple from an illustrated Bible. Cover parts of the picture with sticky notes and challenge the children to remember what is under each of the sticky notes. Help a child open the Bible to Ezra 2. Remind the children this is where we read

the Bible story about the people in Jerusalem who rebuilt the temple. Help the preschoolers put on Bible times clothes. Encourage them to walk around the room repeating: “God is good. God loves us. God will hear us praise Him.”

- 4. Prepare food for workers.** Remind children the people worked together to rebuild the temple. Some people moved logs to the temple and some people gave money to buy materials to build the temple. Some people made food for the workers who were building. Suggest children use pretend food and toy dishes to prepare a meal for the workers building the temple.

CLEAN UP

Give clean-up instructions to the children. Tell a couple of children to put the blocks away and assign other children to clean the dramatic play area. Give instructions until the room is clean.

ROLL A CUBE

Write words from the story on sheets of paper. Consider words such as *church*, *trumpet*, *money*, *logs*, *special clothes*, and *praise*. Insert the words in the pockets on a game cube. If a game cube is not available tape the words to the sides of a box. Stand in a circle and roll the cube to a child. Guide him to point to the word on top when the cube stops rolling. Read the word and encourage the children to tell you what they heard in the story about this word. Play until all the words are read.

DISMISS

Help children gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.