

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

1

CONVERSATION

The People Sang

EZRA 2:68-70; 3:1-13

The people of Israel were held as prisoners in Babylon for many years. Finally, they were allowed to return home. When they arrived in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders gave offerings of gold coins, silver, and clothes for the priests so that God's house could be rebuilt.

The people settled in their towns. After several months they gathered in Jerusalem, and the work on the temple began. The first thing the workers built was an altar to offer sacrifices to God. Even though they were surrounded by

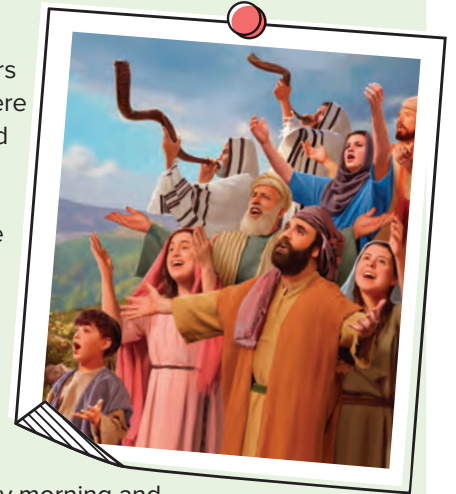
enemies, the people made sacrifices every morning and every evening. They celebrated, worshiped, and sacrificed before the foundation was ready. They gave money to the stonecutters and artists so they could gather cedar wood.

When the workers finally completed the temple's foundation, the priests put on robes and played trumpets. The Levites played cymbals. Together they sang with praise and thanksgiving to God: "He is good! His faithful love to Israel endures forever!"

All the people gave great shouts of praise. Many of the older people remembered the first temple. They wept loudly when they saw the foundation of the new temple. Others shouted for joy. People could not tell the difference between the weeping and the shouts because everyone was so loud. The sound was heard far away.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 95:6

LIFE POINT: The church sings to praise and thank God.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Parents, today your child heard that the church sings to praise and thank God. When the Israelites returned from Babylon, they thanked God that the temple was being rebuilt. How does your family praise and thank God?

LIVE IT OUT

We can praise and thank God by singing to Him. Remind your child that the Book of Psalms is a book of songs. Help your child memorize Psalm 95:6. Lead your child to kneel and give thanks to God for who He is and what He has done.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God wants people to gather to worship Him.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: Psalm 95:6

Monday: James 5:13

Tuesday: Psalm 100:1-2

Wednesday: Acts 16:25

Thursday: Revelation 15:3

Friday: Psalm 9:11

Saturday: Ezra 3:11

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out *The People Sang* section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App.

SUMMER 2020

Unit 1, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

Our hope in Christ changes how we view the world and live in it.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: The saying “He who dies with the most toys wins” aptly describes how many people live in today’s culture. Whether it’s a bigger house, a better job, or getting our children into a certain school, people chase after the things of this world. Faith and hope in Christ transforms our perspective. It places Christ at the center of our lives, so that life is no longer about what we can gain, but about how we love and serve God and others.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Ezra 2:68-70; 3:1-13

Live It Out: Use time driving in the car or waiting in line to praise God with your child. Sing simple praise songs such as “God Is So Good.” Tell your child that he can sing and thank God.

When the people returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, they rebuilt the temple.

Families gave offerings of money that was used to buy supplies and to pay people who worked to rebuild the temple. The people paid to have big logs brought to Jerusalem.

The workers finished the first part of the temple, the foundation. The people celebrated. The church helpers put on their special clothes and brought their trumpets and cymbals. The church helpers played music, and the people sang to God. They thanked Him. The people sang, “God is good. God loves us.”

People were happy the temple was being rebuilt. People sang happy praise songs to God.

Everyone around Jerusalem heard the happy shouts and songs. They knew the people were happy about the temple.

KIDS

Scripture: Ezra 2:68-70; 3:1-13

Live It Out: Remind your child that the Book of Psalms is a book of songs. Help your child memorize Psalm 95:6. Lead your child to thank God for who He is and what He has done.

When God’s people arrived in Jerusalem, they willingly gave offerings. Their offerings were used to help pay for the temple to be built again.

The people began building the altar for the temple. They set up the altar and began making sacrifices.

They found stonecutters to build more of the temple. When the base of the temple was finished, the people dressed in their best clothes. They brought trumpets and cymbals and played music. They sang thanks and praise to God. All the people gave shouts of praise.

Some of the older people cried as they remembered the first temple. The noise from the people could be heard from far away, but those hearing the sounds could not tell the difference between the crying and shouting.

STUDENTS

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-25

- How are Christians often tempted to conform to the culture of this world?
- How does the reality of redemption change the way we see the world and live in it?
- What are the challenges and benefits of loving others sincerely and consistently?

Live It Out: When things inevitably don’t turn out as we’d hoped, it can be easy to get frustrated and discouraged, or even be tempted to give up. Thankfully, we have friends beside us to offer encouragement and to help us overcome a sense of hopelessness.

This week, ask your student if there is anything he or she is struggling with. Consider ways you can help them to overcome any problems and encourage them in their walk. Pray together for the strength and patience to seek Jesus and listen to His direction in difficult times.