

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<< THE PEOPLE REBUILT THE TEMPLE

Ezra 2-6



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- **Mornings:** Ask God to help you feel His presence today. Ask Him to remind you that He is not far off and not hiding from His people. What are some of the ways you can be reminded of God's presence? How does Bible reading, prayer, and worship help you to feel closer with Him?
- **Evenings:** Thank God for sending His Spirit to all who trust in Jesus. How is the Holy Spirit our Helper? How does the Spirit remind us of God's promise to never leave us?

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY POINTS TO JESUS:

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 does not dwell with His people through the temple. Instead, God dwells directly with His people through His Spirit. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.*

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Can God be trusted?

Yes. God cannot lie or ever be wrong, so we can trust whatever He has said.

➤➤➤ CONTINUE THE STORY AT HOME

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Dear Families,

Martin Handford, a British illustrator, created the popular series of books called Where's Waldo? In the books, Handford creates a two-page scene of a large crowd, and the reader must find Waldo, a character wearing a red and white striped outfit. These seemingly simple books are available in 31 different languages and have sold more than 70 million copies worldwide! That's a lot of people searching for Waldo!

Unlike Waldo who hides in the picture books, **God never wanted to hide from His people.** In the Old Testament, God gave His people a special place where they could find Him—first the tabernacle and then the temple. This was the place where the priests could meet with God and where God would dwell with His people.

After returning from exile, the high priest Zerubbabel worked with the people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The people celebrated and made offerings to God because the temple was complete. **Instead of searching for an unseen God, the people had the temple as a reminder that God was dwelling with them.**

The Bible says that everyone who trusts in Jesus receives His Spirit. We don't have to search like we're looking for Waldo, and we don't have to build a temple. **The Spirit is God living with us and in us. Followers of Jesus have the Holy Spirit as our reminder that God is with us always and forever!**

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Pray: *God, thank You for sending Your Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus. We are glad that we don't have to search for You or wonder where You are. Thank You that the Spirit is our Helper, our Comforter, and our reminder that You are living with and in those who trust in You. Amen.*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES<<<

For Fun: Borrow a Where's Waldo? book from your local library or explore another hidden pictures book. Track how long it takes for each family member to find the character. Award a prize for the family member who is the quickest to find Waldo. Talk with kids about how God dwelled with the Israelites in the tabernacle and the temple. **Remind them that God, through His Spirit, now dwells directly with everyone who trusts in Jesus.**

To Serve: Ask your church if there are any cleaning, maintenance, or beautification projects that your family can complete for the church. Work as a family to gather supplies, organize volunteers, and complete the project. **Remind kids that God is not confined to a building, but the church building is a place where we can connect with God and with other believers.** We attend, serve, and invite others to church because it is a place where we can hear the good news of Jesus.



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

The person who trusts in
the Lord, whose confidence
indeed is the Lord, is
blessed.
-Jeremiah 17:7