

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 120: REBUILDING THE ALTAR & THE TEMPLE**  
**EZRA 3:1-13**

After king Cyrus gave the announcement to let the Israelites go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, everyone was preparing to move back to their land. When the seventh month had come, and the sons of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves as one man to Jerusalem. (That means they were all united together as one people). Then Jeshua son of Jozadak and the priests with him, along with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and the people with him, built the altar of the Lord God of Israel. They built the altar of the Lord God of Israel so that they could offer sacrifices on it. They built it just like it says in the Law of Moses. Moses was God's special servant. They were afraid of the other people living near them, but that didn't stop them from working. They built the altar on its old foundation and offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD. They offered sacrifices in the morning and in the evening. Then they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles just like the Law of Moses said to do. They offered the right number of burnt offerings for each day of the festival. After that they began offering the continual burnt offerings each day and the offerings for the New Moon and all the other festivals that were commanded by the LORD. The people also began giving any other gifts they wanted to give to the LORD. So on the first day of the seventh month (which is around October), these Israelites again began offering sacrifices to the LORD. This was done, even though the LORD'S Temple had not been rebuilt all the way. Then those who had come back from captivity gave money to the stonecutters and carpenters. They also gave food, wine, and olive oil to pay the people of Tyre and Sidon to bring cedar logs from Lebanon. They wanted to bring the logs in ships to the seacoast town of Joppa as they did for the first Temple that was destroyed. King Cyrus of Persia gave permission for them to do this. So in the second month of the second year after they came to the Temple in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak began the work. Their brothers, the priests, Levites, and everyone who came back to Jerusalem from captivity began working with them. They chose Levites who were 20 years old and older to be the leaders in the building of the LORD'S Temple. These were the men who supervised the work of building the LORD'S Temple: Jeshua and his sons, Kadmiel and his sons (they were descendants of Judah), the sons of Henadad and their brothers, the Levites. The builders

finished laying the foundation for the LORD'S Temple. When the foundation was finished, the priests put on their special clothing like the Law of Moses says to wear. Then they got their trumpets, and the sons of Asaph got their cymbals. They all took their places to praise the LORD. This was done the way King David of Israel had ordered in the past. And they sang, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, because He is good, for His mercy goes on forever toward Israel.

--they gave a loud shout and praised the LORD because the foundation of the LORD'S Temple had been laid. But many of the older priests, Levites, and family leaders, who were alive and saw the first Temple, began to cry out loud. They cried while the others there shouted for joy. The sound could be heard far away. All of them made so much noise that no one could tell the difference between the shouts of joy and the crying.

## 120. REBUILDING THE ALTAR & THE TEMPLE (EZRA 3:1-13)



"And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they had the priests in their garments with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph with cymbals, all praise the LORD, as David king of Israel had ordered."

**EZRA 3:10**

# 120. REBUILDING THE ALTAR & THE TEMPLE

## EZRA 3:1-13

### MEMORY VERSE:

*"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."*

PSALMS 136:1

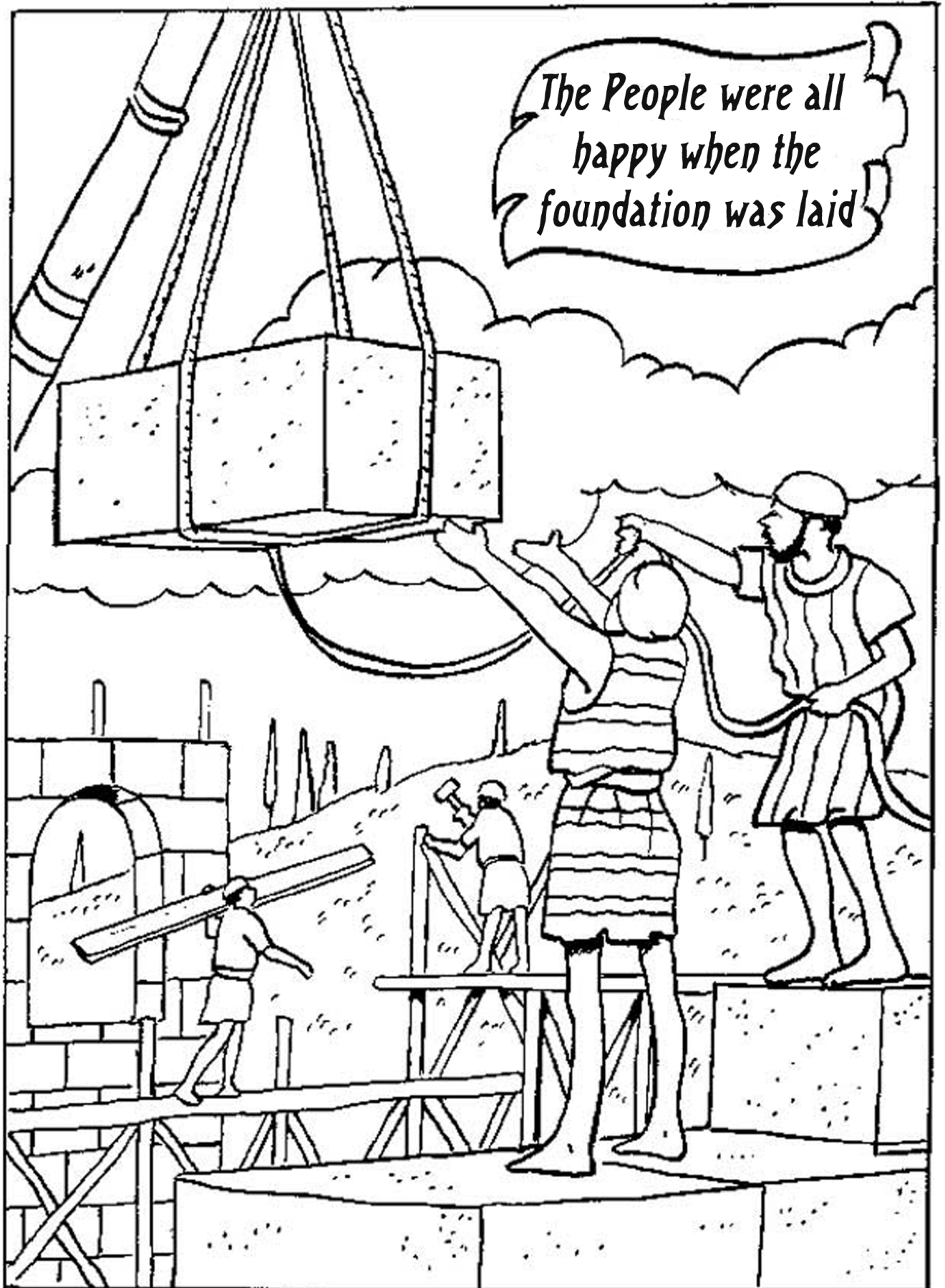
### TRUE OR FALSE

1. The children were in the cities, and they gathered together like one man to Jerusalem. TRUE or FALSE
2. Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers, arose and built the alter of the Lord God of Israel. TRUE or FALSE
3. They built the altar to do dances on it. TRUE or FALSE
4. They gave money to the carpenters and stonecutters, and food, drink & oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon. TRUE or FALSE
5. They did not have permission from Cyrus the king of Persia to do all this. TRUE or FALSE

### ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did the priests get ready and wear their special clothes?
2. Where did the people get their instructions of how to build the altar? Was it from the Law of Moses?
3. Did the sons of Asaph have musical instruments to praise God with?
4. When they were building the altar, were the people afraid? Why were they afraid? Was it because they were afraid of the people living around them?
5. Were the other priests and Levites and old men who remembered the first temple happy when they saw the second temple?
6. Did the old men who remembered seeing the first Temple cry? Why? (Because they were sad that the first Temple was destroyed).

## Lesson 120



## **LESSON 120 Activity**

### **We Need Each Other to Do God's Work!"**

This craft will be a project you can work on together to decorate the bulletin board or wall in your classroom. You will need construction paper, butcher paper, scissors, markers, and glue sticks.

Use a large sheet of butcher paper for the background. Using construction or another piece of butcher paper (different color), cut out a large circle. In the middle of the circle write, "We Need Each Other to Do God's Work!" Next give each child a piece of regular paper. Have them trace their hands and write their names on the hands. They can then cut out the pictures of their hands and decorate them in any other way they would like to. Next, paste the hands to the bulletin board.

As you do this craft, talk about the importance of working together while doing God's work and what it means to be faithful to God.

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be faithful and obedient to God and to use their talents and abilities for Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.