

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 154: THE GLORY RETURNS TO THE TEMPLE
EZEKIEL 43:1-12 (introductory verses from Ezekiel 40:1-3)

Ezekiel had a vision after they were exiled for 25 years, 14 years after the city was destroyed. He said, 'The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me into the city. In visions of God He brought me to the land of Israel, and set me on a very high mountain that had a structure like a city on top of it. When He brought me there, behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. And he was standing in the gateway of that city. The man led me to the east gate. There the Glory of the God of Israel came from the east. God's voice was loud like the sound of many waters, like the sea. The ground was bright with the light from the Glory of God. The vision that I saw was like the vision I saw by the Kebar Canal. I bowed with my face to the ground. The Glory of the LORD came into the Temple through the east gate. Then the Spirit picked me up and brought me into the inner courtyard. The Glory of the LORD filled the Temple. I heard someone speaking to me from inside the Temple. The man was still standing beside me. The voice from the Temple said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the children of Israel forever. The family of Israel will not ruin my holy name again. The kings and their people will not bring shame to my name by committing terrible sins or by burying the dead bodies of their kings in this place. They will not bring shame to my name by putting their doorway next to my doorway, and their doorposts next to my doorposts. In the past, only a wall separated them from me. So they brought shame to my name every time they sinned and did those terrible things. That is why I became angry and destroyed them. Now let them take their terrible sins and the dead bodies of their kings far away from me. Then I will live among them forever. "Now, son of man, tell the family of Israel about the Temple. Then, when they learn about the plans for the Temple, they will be ashamed of their sins. And they will be ashamed of all the bad things they have done. Let them know the design of the Temple. Let them know how it should be built, where the entrances and exits are, and all the designs on it. Teach them about all its rules and all its laws. Write these things for everyone to see so that they can obey all the laws and rules for the Temple. This is the law of the Temple: The whole area surrounding it on the top of the mountain is most holy. This is the law of the Temple.

154. THE GLORY RETURNS TO THE TEMPLE (EZEKIEL 43:1-12)



“So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.”

EZEKIEL 43:5

154. THE GLORY RETURNS TO THE TEMPLE

EZEKIEL 43:1-12

MEMORY VERSE:

"Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the children of Israel forever." EZEKIEL 43:7

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The glory of the God of Israel came from the east. TRUE or FALSE
2. God's voice was quiet like the sound of a quiet stream of water.
TRUE or FALSE
3. The earth shook with His glory. TRUE or FALSE
4. Ezekiel said, "The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple." TRUE or FALSE
5. Then He said to Ezekiel, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell AWAY from the children of Israel forever." TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Spirit take Ezekiel to see this vision? Was it back to the city, on top of a high mountain?
2. What did God's voice sound like to Ezekiel? Have you ever heard the roaring waves, or the loud sound of a big waterfall or dam?
3. What was it that filled the Temple? Was it the glory of the LORD?
4. What did the LORD say about the Temple, or that place? Did He say that it was the place of His throne, and the place of the soles of His feet?
5. What did He say was the law of the Temple? Was it that the whole area around the Temple on top of the mountain was holy?

Lesson 154 Activity

Treasure Hunt

For this game, you will need 4–5 cups of rice, a large bowl, a rubber glove for each child (or one rubber glove that they can take off & share) and one small safety pin for each child. Fill the bowl with the rice and mix in the safety pins. Let the children line up, put on a rubber glove, and take turns trying to find something in the rice (don't tell them what they are looking for, and hold the bowl up high enough where they can't see into it). Most, hopefully, won't find anything. Give the children another turn with the glove removed. Now, everyone should be able to find a safety pin. (NOTE – if you don't have safety pins, you can use pony beads).

Explain: Picture the glove as sin and idolatry—things that keep us from finding a GREY treasure—which is a close relationship with Jesus Christ. There may be things in our hearts that keep us from close fellowship with the Lord. We need to pray God will help us search our hearts. God called His people to repent and turn from their sin so that His glory might dwell in their midst. When we remove idolatry and sin from our lives, God can fill our lives with His Spirit and help us to live for His pleasure and glory.

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY:

Take Me to the Temple This game is a variation of Pin the Tail on the Donkey. You will need poster board, markers, or crayons, paper, scissors, tape, and a couple of blindfolds. Before class, draw a temple on poster board and cut it out (make it fairly large 12"– 18"). At the beginning of class, tape the temple to the wall. Give the children a piece of paper and allow them to draw a person. Color and cut it out. Explain that we are going to play a game like "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Place a small piece of tape on the back of each person that is cut out. Then have the children take turns being blindfolded and spun around. Then they can attempt to stick their person onto the temple. Not many will make it. Now, give them all another turn--this time, without the blindfold. Everyone, this time, should get his or her person to the temple. The children of Israel had become blind to spiritual things, hardened in sin and idolatry. No longer did they experience the presence of God among them. But, Ezekiel pointed to a future day when they would once more enjoy the presence of God dwelling with them, not only would the presence of God fill the temple, but the whole earth.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to remember they are the temples of the Holy Spirit and that their lives should serve to glorify God. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.