UPPER ELEM Flight Plan
November 1st

Lesson	**The Temple was Rebuilt**
Bible Passage	Ezra 4-6; Haggai
Story Point	God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.
Key Passage	"The God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while." 1 Peter 5:10
Big Picture Q & A	**Who is in control of everything?** God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.





At last! God's people returned to Jerusalem, the home of their ancestors. God had given them another opportunity to live as His special people. They got to work right away, completing the foundation of the Lord's temple.

Many of God's people had been born in Babylon, but they had likely heard the stories of their parents and grandparents, stories of a life in the land God had given them. They probably heard of their families' mistakes: ignoring God, worshiping idols, and mistreating the poor. But the Lord had been gracious! He kept His promise to bring His people back to Judah.

Life in Judah wasn't exactly what they had imagined. It was difficult. Their national wealth was gone. The work of rebuilding the temple and the city of Jerusalem was hard. The land was desolate, and crops failed. Their neighbors opposed their efforts. (See Ezra 4:6,11-16.)
God's people were disappointed and discouraged. Rather than fight their enemies, God's people gave up. The temple of the Lord sat unfinished for 16 years. The people made excuses. "Maybe it's not time to rebuild the temple," they reasoned. If that was what God wanted, wouldn't He make it easier for them? (See Hag. 1:2.) God's people moved on to building their own homes.

The prophet Haggai stepped onto the scene and rebuked the people for their misplaced priorities. (Hag. 1:4) He brought words from the Lord, commanding them to finish the work they started. God promised to fill the temple with His glory, and comforted His weary people with this promise: "I will provide peace in this place" (Hag. 2:7,9).

God promised to be with His people and bless them—and not only them, but the whole world through them, keeping the promise He made to Abraham long ago. (See Gen. 12:3.) Through God's servant, Zerubbabel, God would send His Son, Jesus—the greater Servant who is God with us.

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

November Focus: God's People are Restored



NOV 1st: The Temple was Rebuilt *Ezra 4-6; Haggai*
Story point: God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.



NOV 8th: The Walls Rebuilt *Nehemiah 1-6*
Story Point: God used Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.



NOV 15th: God's People Restored *Nehemiah 8-13*
Story Point: God's people repented and Promised to be faithful.



NOV 22nd: Malachi the Prophet *Malachi*
Story Point: Malachi called God's people to repent to prepare for the Messiah.



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus– that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story (Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45

10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to think of a time when something they loved broke. How did they feel? Were they able to put it back together again?

Big Picture Question

Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Even when it seems like God is silent, He has a plan and is in complete control.

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read/sing **1 Peter 5:10** (with video/hand motions). Our key passage reminds us that God has promised to restore, establish, strengthen, and support us. God keeps His promises. God has a purpose and a plan for our lives. This verse also tells us that our life will have suffering and hard times.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

In the first couple of chapters in Ezra, we learned that **God kept His promise to bring His people home.** God's people were so excited. They began rebuilding the temple. Some of God's people praised God, and some of them were sad about the temple foundation.

Today, we will see that even though it was hard work and people questioned them, **God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.** We will learn that after God sent Jesus to earth, His people didn't need a temple anymore.

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Ezra 4-6. Read from the Bible or use the story example to help you tell the story.

<u>Wrap up</u> with the insights below.

God's people were excited about rebuilding the temple so they could worship Him. You can see they had one focus: God. When people questioned them, they kept on building so they could celebrate the one true God. God's people didn't allow others to discourage or distract them from their goal. Not only did they keep their focus when they were building, they made sure God was the focus of the celebration when they completed the temple. They didn't pause to make a name for themselves. As soon as they were done, they made offerings to God and celebrated the Passover.

We see God's faithfulness throughout this story. The workers found God's Word on a scroll, God changed a king's heart, and God sent leaders to encourage His people. God deserves our worship and celebration.



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 dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. We don't need a temple anymore. Because of Jesus, we can have eternal life with God forever

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD'S PEOPLE REBUILT THE TEMPLE TO GLORIFY GOD.

After living in Babylon for 70 years, God's people were home! A group had returned to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple. They had started the work, but their neighbors didn't want them to rebuild the temple, so they stopped building. God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people. So the leaders—Zerubbabel and Joshua—started working on the temple again.

A governor named Tattenai noticed God's people had started to rebuild the temple again. Tattenai sent a report to King Darius in Persia.

This is what Tattenai's letter to King Darius said: "The people in Judah are building the temple of the great God. They said King Cyrus gave them permission to rebuild the temple. Please search the royal records to see if this is true."



King Darius's officials searched the royal records for Cyrus's order. They found it.

So King Darius sent a letter back to Tattenai. He gave this order: "Stay away from the workers in Jerusalem. Don't bother them or try to stop them. Give them whatever they need."

Tattenai and the other officials obeyed King Darius's order. The Jewish leaders kept building and they finally finished the temple of God! The people celebrated and made offerings to God.

Christ Connection: 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 dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Haggai 1. Explain that the prophet Haggai recorded four messages to the Jewish people. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Haggai 1:1-2.

• God used the prophet Haggai to deliver His message to rebuild the temple. This was an important message for God's people, and Haggai was faithful to deliver the message that would result in God's glory. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **How did rebuilding the temple bring glory to God?** *Help kids conclude that God's people were determined to rebuild the temple so they could worship God. Seeing the temple rebuilt showed God's faithfulness. Hundreds of years later, God would send Jesus to dwell among His people so they would no longer need the temple.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:14.)
2. **The Bible tells us that we are God's temple. How should that impact the way we relate to one another or see ourselves?** *Emphasize to kids that if we are in Christ, our bodies are the temple to the Holy Spirit. We should honor our bodies and treat others with respect.* (Option: read 1 Cor. 6:19-20.)
3. **Why is God the best foundation for our lives?** *Invite kids to discuss how we can often be tempted to build our foundation on other things (relationships, popularity, etc.), but Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is the only firm foundation. All other ground is sinking sand.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 3:11.)



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

- PROTECTOR - PROVIDER

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc… as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible

CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

A Remnant Remaining

Instruct everyone to stand in a circle. Read a list of criteria, one statement at a time. Kids who meet that criterion must keep standing, and those who don't will sit down. Continue reading the statements until only one person remains standing. (Sample criteria: born in this city, owns a pet, has a brother, can play a musical instrument, is on a sports team, and so forth)

•Two to three million Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. But only about 50,000 people returned to Jerusalem. That's not very many! A remnant is a small remaining number of people. Do you think it surprised God that only 50,000 people were left of the nation of Israel? Of course not. Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. God was even in control over the number of Jews who returned to Jerusalem out of exile. He would work through those people to fulfill the promised blessing He had made to Abraham so many years earlier—sending the Messiah, Jesus.

Create Something New

Provide a pile of clean recyclable materials for the kids and invite them to try to make something useful out of it.

•This pile of materials may have looked like trash at first, but you were able to create some really cool things out of it! In our story today we'll learn that Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The walls had been completely destroyed in some places. Many people didn't think it was possible to make the city safe again.

Playing Card Temple

Demonstrate how to build a structure out of playing cards. Form two or more groups of kids. Give each group a deck of cards. Challenge them to build a structure. Assign each group a leader to cheer on the group and encourage them as they build. After several minutes, examine the structures.

• Great job building! How helpful or encouraging was your leader? When God's people were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, God sent two prophets—Haggai and Zechariah—to encourage the people. Today we learned about how and why God's people rebuilt the temple.

Hard Work Matches

Before the session, create two matching sets of cards describing actions that require hard work (*raking the leaves, doing the dishes, vacuuming, folding laundry,* and so on). Distribute the cards among the kids so each player has someone else in the class with the match.

On your signal, kids must walk around the room silently and find their matching partner by only using motions to describe what their hard work action is. Matching partners must complete their action and then take a seat.

• Those actions took some work to complete. Just like our story about how God's people returned home and worked hard to rebuild the temple.

Then and Now

Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen. Guide the kids to turn the page sideways and draw a line down the middle of the page (top to bottom across the shorter length). Instruct kids to label the left side of the page *Temple Then* and the right side *Temple Now*.

Show the Bible story picture and encourage kids to refer to the picture to draw the temple on the left side of the page. Then instruct kids to draw a self-portrait on the right side of the page. Consider providing mirrors for kids to look at their own faces.

• Your pictures represent the temple then and now. **God's people rebuilt the temple to glorify God.** The temple gave them a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

• ***Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.*** Even when it seems like God is silent, He has a plan and is in complete control.

5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc…

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with *(origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc….)*

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one vword at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at time to say the key passage together.

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Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

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Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

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Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

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Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

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Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space– a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

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Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

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Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

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Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

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Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to "think outside the bag" and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're ready for Sunday!

