



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 17 • Session 1

GOD BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE HOME

Ezra 1-3

HOW DID GOD PLAN TO FIX WHAT SIN BROKE? BEFORE HE CREATED THE WORLD, GOD PLANNED TO SEND THE MESSIAH.

King Cyrus of Persia issued a decree, saying: "The LORD has appointed me to build him a house in Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people may go to Jerusalem to build the house of the LORD."

God's people prepared to go to Jerusalem and build the Lord's house. All their neighbors supported them with gifts of silver, gold, livestock, and valuables.

A few months after they arrived in Jerusalem, Jeshua the priest, Zerubbabel, and their brothers began to build the altar of God so that they could sacrifice burnt offerings. Then, they began to buy the supplies needed to rebuild the temple.

Two years after God's people arrived in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and their brothers appointed the Levites to oversee the work on the Lord's house. Once they had laid the foundation of the temple, the priests led the people to praise God with trumpets and cymbals. They sang, "The LORD is good. His faithful love to Israel endures forever."

While most people were happy, some of the older priests remembered the first temple. This new foundation was not as magnificent as the original temple. The people could not tell the difference between those who were weeping loudly and those who were shouting for joy.

Christ Connection: Just as God promised, He brought His people back from exile to Jerusalem. One day, God will bring all His people together—all who trust in Jesus to save them from sin. There will be no crying that day. The people will worship Him in the new heaven and new earth.

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