



THE PEOPLE SANG



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

People at church worship by praying, giving, singing, reading the Bible, and learning more about God and Jesus.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Ezra 2:68–3:13

WEEKLY VERSE

Come, let us worship God.
Psalm 95:6

UNIT VERSE

Come, let us worship God.
Psalm 95:6

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

June 14



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Buildings such as the White House of the United States, Notre Dame Cathedral of France, The Royal Exchange of London, Frauenkirche Church of Germany, Twin Towers of New York City, and Gran Teatre del Liceu of Barcelona are famous for more than one reason: construction, destruction, and rebuilding.

Centuries earlier, Solomon built a temple that lasted about 400 years. The Babylonians destroyed the beautiful temple in 586 BC when they captured the Israelites and took them into exile. About 70 years later, at the mercy of their Persian conquerors, the Israelites were allowed to return home where they found the ruins of the temple. They rebuilt on the same site with a volunteer construction team. The people gave offerings of gold, silver, and even “priestly garments” toward the building of the second temple. Before they laid the foundation for the new temple, they built the altar. Almost immediately, they began making sacrifices to the Lord as they observed the Jewish rituals.

Volunteers, priests, and Levites participated in laying the foundation of the temple. This was a time of rejoicing. The laying of the temple foundation was cause for praise and thanksgiving to God. When the people saw the foundation completed, some rejoiced and some wept. Those who wept recalled the place of worship they remembered from years past.

This holy place would be known as Herod’s temple, due to his first-century expansion, until the Romans destroyed it in AD 70. Now all that remains of the temple is a retaining wall, the Wailing Wall, as Gentiles call it.

The Israelites celebrated by singing and playing instruments to praise God. How are you using your God-given voice and musical talents to worship, honor, praise, and thank Him?

How can you help your kids understand that the reason for singing and playing instruments in church is to worship, honor, praise, and thank God? What will you do to help them understand that the words they sing matter, and even more than their voices, God cares about their hearts?



GROUP TIME

- › **Transition to group time.** Lead the children to form a circle. Ask for volunteers to tell about things they have learned at church. Mention that people at church can learn about God and can sing to Him and thank Him. Sing “This Is Church” with the boys and girls.
- › **Pray.** Tell the children that they can pray and thank God for many things. Ask if any volunteers want to pray. Thank God for the boys and girls coming to church today.
- › **Tell the Bible story.** Explain to the children that the people celebrated when the temple was repaired. Tell kids that the temple was a place to worship God like a church building is a place to worship God. Open the Bible to Ezra and tell the Bible story in your own words as you hold the Bible open on your lap.

THE PEOPLE SANG

—Based on Ezra 2:68–3:13

God’s temple in Jerusalem needed to be rebuilt. People gave money for building the temple and making clothes for the priests.

Zerubbabel and some other men led the people to build the altar first. According to God’s law, the priests took the people’s offerings and burned them on the altar to worship God. These offerings were called sacrifices. The priests made sacrifices every morning and evening.

The people celebrated special festivals and gave more offerings. Zerubbabel and the other men led the workers to build the temple foundation. The foundation would hold up the temple building.

When the foundation was complete, the priests dressed in their special clothes and held trumpets. Others held cymbals as they all began to praise and thank God. They said, “For He is good; His faithful love to Israel lasts forever.”

Some of the older people cried when they saw the foundation of the new temple. Other people celebrated with great shouts of praise. The joyful shouting was so loud that people from far away heard the people praising God.

- › **Review.** Display the Teaching Picture. Say “I spy ...”, and name something in the picture. Invite volunteers to identify it and tell how it was part of the Bible story. Repeat for different objects in the picture.
- › **Learn the Weekly Verse.** Say Psalm 95:6: “Come, let us worship God.” Show the kids where the verse is found in the Bible. Tell the kids to say the verse in a high voice, then in a low voice. Say it in a normal voice. Say it in a loud voice. Remind them that the people praised God loudly.
- › **Wrap it up.** Show “The People Sang” video. Talk about different ways that people worship God such as praying, giving, singing, and reading the Bible.

CHOOSE

your own

SCHEDULE

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.



- › Pack Items 1, 4: “Unit 1 Banner,” “Psalm 95:6”
- › Teaching Picture 2
- › Music
- › Videos



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Pack Item 4:
“Psalm 95:6”
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Music, rhythm
instruments, pencils

PLAY INSTRUMENTS

- › Guide the kindergartners as they complete the Kids Activity Page.
- › Display and say Psalm 95:6. Mention the Bible story. Ask the kids to recall the instruments that the priests used to praise and thank God.
- › Play “People at Church.” Encourage the boys and girls to play instruments with the song.
- › Say the Life Point: “People at church sing and thank God.”
- › Comment that people in church use instruments as they sing and thank God. Ask them to name instruments people play at your church.
- › Play other songs and allow the children to march around the room. (*music*)

- › Teaching Picture 2
- › Pack Items 9, 11:
“Review Cube,” “Church Buildings”
- › Bible, paper, crayons,
markers

DRAW A PICTURE

- › Look at the pictures of church buildings. Talk about how the buildings are alike and different.
- › Say that people at church worship by praying, giving, singing, reading the Bible, and learning more about God and Jesus.
- › Distribute paper. Encourage the kids to draw a picture of people worshipping at church. As the boys and girls work, open the Bible and talk about the story. Look at the Teaching Picture.
- › Invite volunteers to toss the “Review Cube” and answer questions about the Bible story. Remind the children that the people in the story sang and thanked God at the temple and today we sing about God at church.
- › Encourage the kids to talk about their pictures. (*art*)

- › Pack Item 12: “Coin Patterns”
- › Bible, scissors, assorted coins

MAKE COIN PATTERNS

Cut apart the pattern strips. Spread the coins on a flat surface.

- › Encourage the boys and girls to create patterns with the coins. They can place coins on top of the strips or make patterns underneath the strips.
- › Open the Bible and talk about the story. Mention that the people gave money to rebuild the temple.
- › Lead the kindergartners to recall what the people did when the foundation was completed. Say the Life Point.
- › Open the Bible to Psalm 95:6 and say the Bible verse. Remark that worshipping God includes singing, praying, and giving. (*puzzles*)

- › Pack Items 1, 7: “Unit 1 Banner,” “Word Cards” (*worship*)
- › Bible, paper, pencils,
crayons, markers, gel pens, colored pencils

WRITE WORDS

- › Say the Life Point with the kindergartners. Mention that people can thank God by singing to Him.
- › Say that singing and thanking God is worship. Show the word card and spell the word together.
- › Distribute paper and writing items. Encourage the kids to print the word *worship*. Display the banner and encourage them to write the Bible verse or the words *Worshiping God*.

- › Suggest the kids write words to thank God for the church, the Bible, or other things.
- › Help a child open the Bible to the Book of Ezra. Remind the children that the people in the Bible story sang to God and thanked Him. (*writing*)

PLAY A VERSE GAME

Print the words of Psalm 95:6 on two sets of paper plates, each plate containing a single word or the reference.

- › Display the Weekly Verse and say it with the children. Talk about the verse with the kids and then turn it facedown.
- › Form two groups. Arrange the plates in random order on a table and invite the groups to assemble the verse.
- › Say the verse together again when the groups are finished.
- › Show the kids the missions pictures. Talk about the Family Camps in Poland. Say that families from Oklahoma and families from Poland worshiped God together.
- › Say the Life Point.
- › Mix the two sets of plates and lay all the plates facedown on the floor. Guide one child from each group to turn over a plate. When the plates match, remove them from the game. Continue until all matches are found. (*games*)

BUILD A FOUNDATION

- › Challenge the kindergartners to use the materials to build a foundation on which the small box can stand. Encourage them to use their own ideas as they work.
- › Open the Bible and tell the Bible story. Point to the word *foundation* (or related word) in the Bible passage.
- › Remind kids that people praised God as the priests played instruments.
- › Say the Life Point with the kids: “People at church sing and thank God.”
- › Lead children to talk about their experiences singing at church. (*blocks*)

USE THE COLORING SHEET

Print a copy of the coloring sheet for each child.

- › Lead kids to paint the page. Talk about the Bible story as children work.
- › If circumstances permit, take a quiet walk down the hall or around the church. Lead kids to listen for music, singing, or instruments playing.
- › Say the Life Point.

CLEAN UP

- › Play “God Is Good Medley” and encourage the kids to help clean up the room. Thank boys and girls for their help.

- › Pack Item 8: “Unit 1 Weekly Verses” (*Psalm 95:6*)
- › Printables: “Unit 1 Missions: Poland”
- › Paper plates, markers

- › Bible, wooden blocks, paper cups, wide craft sticks, other building items, small box

- › Printables: “The People Sang” Coloring Page
- › Watercolors, brushes, cups of water, painting smocks
- › **Option:** Send the sheet home as a story reminder the kids can color during the week.

- › Music