



Haggai and the Temple

Lesson Aim: To know the Holy Spirit will help us put God first and make good choices.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23

What He has done: God sent a message telling the people to give careful thought to their ways.

Key Verse: Haggai 1:7

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Colossians 1:10-14

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Dry Bones, Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6	God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and the promise of a new heart.	To understand what it means to have a new heart and a new life. (Salvation Message)
44	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3	God was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.	To exemplify a life that puts God first.
45	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27	God protected Daniel from the lions.	To live a life of prayer in a trusting relationship with God.
46	Haggai and the Temple, Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23	God sent a message telling the people to give careful thought to their ways.	To know the Holy Spirit will help us put God first and make good choices.
47	Malachi and God's Message of Tithing, Malachi 2:2; 3:7-10	God challenged His people to give Him their tithes and offerings.	To know giving our tithes and offerings brings us closer to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 4:1-8. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your protection and Your reminders that Your kingdom will not fail. Fill the children with Your Spirit so they will want to obey and serve You as the Lord of all. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Temple Builders	Paper, scissors, black and red markers, tape or sticky wall tack
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Chosen People" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "I Am the Way" "Not by Might" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "Prepare to Meet Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord" "Fairest Lord Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Zechariah 4:6	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 46 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Colossians 1:10-14	
	Final 5	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Tasty Temple	Graham crackers or wafer cookies, frosting, plastic knives
	Up to 10	Game: What's the Right Choice?	Paper plates, "What's the Right Choice" game cards (available at ResourceWell.org)
	Up to 15	Craft: Choose God First	Craft foam, foam finger glove template (available at ResourceWell.org), pen or pencil, scissors, permanent markers or colored pens, hot glue gun, hot glue, assorted craft supplies, glue
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Praise Tag	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Four Praise Corners	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, paper, marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What do you like to build?

GAME: TEMPLE BUILDERS

Purpose: Children will realize the people sent to rebuild Jerusalem were choosing selfish pursuits instead of rebuilding God's temple.

Supplies: Paper, scissors, black and red markers, tape or sticky wall tack

Prepare: Cut 40 large rectangles out of paper to make stone bricks. Label each stone as follows:

- On 4 stones: Foundation
- On 4 stones: Wall
- On 1 stone: Door
- On 2 stones: Window
- On 4 stones: Roof
- On 25 stones: (draw a red X)

Let's pretend we are the Israelites. For many years, we have been forced to live in Babylon. Now, we are home in Jerusalem, but the enemies have destroyed God's temple. We need to rebuild it. When it's your turn, pick out a stone brick and put it in the correct place on the temple. If you find a red X, hold onto it and do not add it to the temple.

Directions:

1. Shuffle the paper stones and place in a pile face down.
2. The first child chooses a stone. If the stone lists a building part, he or she sticks it to a wall in the proper location:
 - a. Foundation: Bottom row
 - b. Wall: Middle row
 - c. Roof: Top row
 - d. Door and windows: Place onto the structure as appropriate.
 - e. Red X brick: Keep it.
3. Next child takes a turn.
4. Play until all the bricks have been selected.

If we did not have to pick up and keep the red X stones, could we have built the temple more quickly? (Yes.) Hold your red X stones high in the air. The red X stones stand for all the stones the Israelites did not use to rebuild the temple. They used them to build their own houses instead of God's temple. Let's find out what God's prophets Haggai and Zechariah had to say about that!



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the God who is Lord of all. He is the one who can give us strength and wisdom to make choices that are right in His eyes. He is the one who can forgive us for our wrong choices. He is the one who knows our hearts. It is His Spirit that strengthens and leads us in all we do. Let's give Him thanks and praise as we give our offering. Sing: "Search Me, O God" as the offering is collected.

Let's worship God by remembering and following the P.R.A.Y. prayer we learned last time:

P: Praise God for strengthening us with His Spirit.

R: Ask God to help us make right choices.

A: Admit the wrong choices we have made.

Y: Yes! Close your prayer by saying, "Amen!" which means "Yes!"



Haggai and Zechariah were two prophets during the time that God's people were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem after enemies had torn it down. This was an important and difficult job. Zechariah reminds us that great things happen not through our own might or power, but by the Holy Spirit. Read Zechariah 4:6.



Sing: "Not By Might." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Haggai reminds us that we belong to God and must be careful to make godly choices. Sing the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People."



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 46.



Haggai's message about choices

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Daniel prayed every day even when he was a captive in Babylon. God saved him from the lions' den. Today, we will learn about the prophet Haggai who encouraged the people sent from Babylon to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel.

70 years after Daniel and the people were taken to Babylon, King Cyrus agreed to allow Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, to return to Jerusalem with many people to rebuild God's temple. But, after 16 years, the temple was still not completed because they chose to make improvements on their own homes instead. God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage them to put God first and finish the temple. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Let's focus on Haggai's warning, choice, and promise from God to the people.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Let's begin by reading Haggai's WARNING from God to the people of Jerusalem in Haggai 1:7-9. Read.

God encouraged the people with the CHOICE found in Haggai 2:4. Read.

With the help of God's Spirit, the people chose to put God first and build His temple right away. But they were sad when they noticed the temple would not be as big as the last one. Some people were worried it would not be as good. Check out God's PROMISE about the new temple in Haggai 2:9. Read.

God was pleased with Zerubbabel for leading the people to rebuild the temple. Read Haggai 2:23 to discover the promise God made to him. Read.



Making good choices

THE WAY

Why did God send Haggai to the people who had stopped rebuilding God's temple? (Children respond.) **They were choosing to do things they wanted to do instead of what God wanted them to do. What do you think it means to "give careful thought to your ways"?** (Children respond.) **Sometimes we do things without thinking about the choices we are making. Some people do things because others are doing it. Sometimes we focus our thoughts and actions on doing what we want to do without taking the time to think about how God wants us to spend our time. Have you ever forgotten to think carefully about a choice you were making?** (Children respond.)

God always gives us a choice. The people of Jerusalem had to choose between giving up or being strong and doing the work. They had to choose between focusing on themselves or God. God told Haggai to tell the people that He was with them to strengthen them. The prophet Zechariah told the people their strength to make right choices would come not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit. Who do you think gave the people strength to finish the temple? (God's Spirit.) **His Spirit will help you be strong and make good choices, too. Before making a choice, be sure to stop and ask yourself, "Will this please God? Will this point others to Jesus?"**

The people who remembered how great the old temple was may have worried they could not rebuild it to be as good as the first. What was God's promise? (The new temple will be more glorious than one before and they will worship in peace.)

Zerubbabel was the governor who led the rebuilding of the temple. In those days, the king would use His signet ring as a seal of his royal approval. A letter with the seal from the king's signet ring meant the king approved of the letter. To be called God's signet ring meant God approved of Zerubbabel. How do you think Zerubbabel felt to know God had chosen him and approved of him? (Children respond.) **How do you think God feels about people who help build His kingdom and love His Son Jesus?** (They are chosen and approved by God.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people to make good choices. Over 500 years after Haggai gave God's message to the people about their choices, Paul prayed for the people to make good choices. He knew wonderful things happen when we make choices that please God. Let's check it out.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Colossians 1:10-14. Let's find this scripture. Listen carefully to why Paul prays for us to make good choices. Read Colossians 1:10-14.

Do you think the choices we make today are important to God? (Yes.) **What are some examples of choices you make that are important to God?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a stamp or seal of the letter Z. The Z stands for Zerubbabel. Ancient kings had a signet ring they would press into a wax seal to give approval. Let this "Z" remind you of God's seal of approval. Just as He did with Zerubbabel, God chooses us and gives His approval to anyone who believes in His Son Jesus and helps build His kingdom.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 46 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Zerubbabel and the people rebuilding the temple.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: TASTY TEMPLE

Purpose: Children will build a temple with their snack to connect with the rebuilding of God's temple.

Snack Suggestion: Graham crackers or wafer cookies, frosting, plastic knives

What were God's people doing instead of rebuilding the temple? (Being selfish and building their own houses. Many were also stealing and lying.) **Which two prophets told them to rebuild the temple?** (Haggai and Zechariah.) **God's people needed to think about their selfish ways and return to Him. What does it mean to return to God and put Him first?** (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is one way you can choose to put God first?"**

GAME: WHAT'S THE RIGHT CHOICE?

Purpose: Children will discover ways to choose God first as they move through a life-size board game.

Supplies: Paper plates, "What's the Right Choice" game cards (available at ResourceWell.org)

Prepare: Cut out the game cards.

Teacher Tips: The card situations are purposefully simple so children can feel confident in making right choices. However, you can challenge your group by not reading the choices or by making up your own, more difficult, scenarios. If you run out of cards before the game is over, reshuffle the cards and reuse.

Limited Space? Create a tabletop game board by drawing 15 to 20 spaces on a large sheet of paper. Use buttons or rocks for playing pieces.

God's people were building houses for themselves. What should they have been rebuilding? (God's temple.) **What was Haggai's warning from God?** (Think carefully about your ways.) **What could the people choose to do?** (Be strong and work.) **Who promised to be with them?** (The Lord God.) **The people were choosing to do what they wanted instead of choosing God's way. Doing things God's way means making choices that please Him. Both Haggai and Zechariah warned us about making godly choices. Let's play a game to help us make right choices.**

Directions:

1. Place 15 paper plates on the floor in a line. Place the game cards in a pile face down on a table.
2. Form two teams. Teams each choose one child to be the game player. (Children may take turns.) Game players for both teams stand on, or next to, the first paper plate.
3. Decide which team will go first.
4. The first team draws a card from the deck.
5. The child (or teacher) reads the card and choice out loud. The team chooses which answer they think is correct. If correct, their game player moves forward one space (unless otherwise noted). If incorrect, their game player stays where he or she is.
6. Continue playing until one team reaches the last plate.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CHOOSE GOD FIRST

Purpose: To create a symbolic glove to help children remember to choose God's way first.

Supplies: Craft foam, foam finger glove template (available at ResourceWell.org), pen or pencil, scissors, permanent markers or colored pens, hot glue gun, hot glue, assorted craft supplies, glue

Prepare: Write "**Choose God First**" where children can see to copy it. Preheat glue gun.

Teacher Tips: Assist younger children with tracing and cutting or provide pre-cut and/or glued gloves. For safety purposes, only allow adults or teen helpers to use the hot glue gun.

Options: Instead of foam, use felt, cloth, or sturdy paper. Instead of hot glue, secure the two halves with fast drying/tacky glue, staples, heavy tape or sew them together.

Today, we learned God's people in Jerusalem were building their own houses before working on God's temple. Which two prophets did God send to warn them that God wanted them to rebuild His temple? (Haggai and Zechariah.) God warned the people to think carefully about the way they were living. They needed to choose to be strong and work on His temple before they improved their own houses. God wants us to make choices that put Him first.

Let's make a foam finger that shows the number one (#1). Let your foam finger remind you to choose to do what God wants first. God's way is always the right choice!

Directions:

1. From craft foam, trace and cutout two foam finger gloves.
2. If using hot glue, assist children in using the hot glue gun to place a line of hot glue along the inside edge of one glove.
3. Lay the other glove on top and press the sides together for 15 to 20 seconds until the glue is cool and dry.
4. Use a permanent marker or colored pen to write "**Choose God First**" on your glove.
5. Decorate your glove with assorted craft supplies: draw pictures, add a border, color it, or stick on buttons, sequins, stickers, or other decorations.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

GAME: PRAISE TAG

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster

Read the Bible Memory Verse. **In our Bible Memory Verse, Peter gives four titles to describe people who believe in Jesus. What are they?** (A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.) **What is the reason given for why God has chosen people to belong to Him?** (So we may declare His praises.) **The verse says God brought us out of darkness, which we call sin, and into His light, which is life with the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and leading us to do things God's way. When we have Jesus in our hearts, we want to praise God! Let's declare our praise to Him while we play Praise Tag!**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be "It."
2. On your signal, "It" chases the other children and attempts to tag (touch) one of them.
3. If "It" successfully tags another child, then the tagged child becomes the new "It."
4. Children can be safe from being tagged for 10 seconds by shouting a sentence of praise to God: **"I praise God for a truth about who God is or what He has done."** The child then sits and counts aloud to 10. Children may do this as often as they like. You may choose to require children think of a new praise each time.

Limited space? Children sit in a circle. "It" spins a spinner from any board game (or make your own using a paper plate, a paper fastener, and a straw). The child the arrow points to shouts a praise sentence to God. That child becomes the new "It" and spins the arrow. Play until each child has at least one turn shouting praise to God. To add difficulty, require the praises be related to a specific topic such as the previous week's Bible story, creation, family, etc.

GAME: FOUR PRAISE CORNERS

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, tape, four signs titled as follows: Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, People Belonging to God

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Directions:

1. Point out the four corners as the four titles Peter gave to describe people who believe in Jesus.
2. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room, close his or her eyes, and count aloud to 10.
3. The other children rush to stand in a corner before the Caller says, "10."
4. The Caller keeps his or her eyes closed and calls out a corner name.
5. The children in that corner recite the Bible Memory Verse together. As needed, they may read from the Bible Memory Verse poster.
6. Choose another Caller and play again. Allow all the children to remain in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone in Babylon to worship his golden statue. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they refused to worship this idol? (They were thrown into the fire.) What did the king see in the fire? (Four men walking around unharmed and untied.) After this miracle, the king praised the one true God.

Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) While captive in Babylon, Daniel stayed faithful to God and became well respected by four different Babylonian kings. He advised the kings and explained their dreams. What did Daniel do when his enemies tricked King Darius into making a law against praying to God? (He prayed anyway.) How did God save Daniel in the lions' den? (An angel shut their mouths.) When the king saw this, He ruled that everyone must respect Daniel's God.

Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage God's people who returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple after their exile in Babylon. Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah who made sure the temple was rebuilt. Haggai warned them to give careful thought to their selfish ways so they would choose to put God first and rebuild His temple. Zechariah told the people that our power comes not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit. The temple was completed in 516 B.C.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)