

# Bible Story Summary

- God's people were in Babylon, far away from their homes and land. But God had made a promise. God had said that the people would have to stay in Babylon for 70 years, but then He would bring His people back home.
- After 70 years, God gave King Cyrus the idea to let His people go back to their land and rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem.
- King Cyrus and the other people living in Babylon gave them gifts like gold, silver, and animals.
- A man named Zerubbabel led God's people back home. Some of the people had never seen Jerusalem because they had been born in Babylon. When they got to Judah, each family set up its house. Then the people met together in Jerusalem to start rebuilding God's temple.
- God had special laws for how to build the temple, and God's people were careful to obey them. The priests made the altar in the same place the old altar had been. Then they made offerings and sacrifices to God.
- The workers made the foundation, or the bottom, of the temple. The foundation was very important. The people were so happy that the foundation was done!
- Some of the older people remembered what the first temple had looked like long ago, before it had been knocked down. The people were sad, and they cried loudly.
- The priests put on special clothes. The people shouted and sang songs to God.

# **Family Discussion Questions**

**As a family read Ezra 1-3**

- **How do we know God will keep all His promises?**
- **What are some ways you have seen God's Faithfulness?**
- **How can we know God loves us in difficult times?**

FAMILY

# Activity

**Build a pillow fort with your kids. Take flashlights and a Bible into the fort and read different passages about God's faithfulness, such as Joshua 21:43-45; Ezra 1:1-4. Discuss God's faithfulness to send Jesus.**

# Craft

God's people had to move everything they had in Babylon back to Judah. King Cyrus also gave them gifts of gold, silver, and animals to take with them. Jesus came to earth to save God's people. One day Jesus will come back. He will prepare a greater home for all of God's people, and we will live with Him forever.

**What you need:**

**Travel printable**

**File folder**

**Markers or crayons**

**Scissors**

**Washi tape or duct tape**

**Glue**

- **Print "travel printable".**
- **Trim the top of the file folder to make the top even.**
- **Color the two handles and luggage tag from the printable.**
- **Cut out all three parts.**
- **Glue handles to the top inside of the file folder.**
- **Glue luggage tag on the front of the file folder.**
- **Decorate with washi tape.**

