

**LIFE POINT**  
THE CHURCH SINGS  
TO PRAISE AND  
THANK GOD

# THE PEOPLE SANG



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

### CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

*(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)*

In many cities, construction is often seen as a nuisance that causes traffic delays and forces cars to navigate through tight rows of orange cones. Yet the same buildings that cause criticism while being built are often celebrated when they are complete. Some even hold ribbon-cutting ceremonies to mark the occasion, proving it is much easier to celebrate the finished product than the process involved.

When the Jewish prisoners of Babylon, held captive for nearly 70 years, returned home to Jerusalem, they immediately began to resurrect the city that had been destroyed. Inspired by God, King Cyrus decreed that the people return to rebuild the temple of “the God of Israel” (Ezra 1:1-3). Many of them were returning to a place they only knew through stories, while a few returned to the home they loved and remembered.

Rebuilding the temple was a massive undertaking, but the Israelites continued to worship throughout the entire process. They worshiped God through sacrifice when they participated in the festivals and reentered into the rhythms of their faith. They worshiped God through generosity by giving their valuable possessions to the rebuilding efforts. They worshiped God through work as they rebuilt the altar for the Lord. They worshiped God through remembering what He had done and His promises for the future. They worshiped God through music by singing praises to Him with gratitude in their hearts.

When the foundation of the temple was complete, all the people erupted in praise. They sang, played music, and worshiped God with their voices. Those who remembered the original temple wept, but many others rejoiced. Scripture says their combined voices created a sound that could be “heard far away.” The temple was not a finished product, but the people believed the promises of God would be fulfilled.

Take some time to read Ecclesiastes 3 and consider the various seasons of your life. What was your response to God through each season? The Bible is clear: no matter what we face, we should praise God. In our exile, in our grief, and in our joy, He is to be glorified and worshiped (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:4; Psalm 34:1; Job 1:21).

As you pray this week, thank God for walking with you through every season of your life. Ask Him to show you His presence in the finished products, the processes, and everything in between. Ask for a heart of worship that can be “heard far away” so that your worship will reflect God’s glory to others.

### LIFE POINT

The church sings to praise and thank God

### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God wants people to gather to worship Him.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Ezra 2:68–3:1-13

### BIBLE VERSE

Come, let’s worship and bow down; let’s kneel before the LORD our Maker. Psalm 95:6



---

## TELL THE STORY

---

### INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Announce that inside the bag are six cards, each with a line from a popular children's song. However, each card is missing a word. Explain that child volunteers will be invited to select a card and read or sing the line aloud pausing where the missing word belongs so that kids in the group can complete the line. Lead kids to play the game. Acknowledge that singing and music can be fun. State that singing and music can also be a way the church worships God. Teach kids that worship is the response of people to God. Songs and activities are worship when they are focused on praising or obeying God.

### BIBLE STORY: THE PEOPLE SANG

God's chosen people, the Israelites, had been living in a country that was not their home. Finally, the time had come for them to return to their hometowns of Jerusalem and Judah. After 70 years of being forced to live in Babylon, God kept His promise to bring the Israelites home (2 Chronicles 36:21-23).

When the Israelites arrived in Jerusalem, the people gave what they could to help rebuild the temple so they would have a place to worship God. The people gave gold, silver, and priestly garments. Everyone worked together to make sure the temple would be built again. The priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, and some of the people settled in their towns, and the rest of Israel settled in their towns.

In the seventh month, all the people returned to the city of Jerusalem where the first temple had been built. Men were chosen to build the altar so that burnt offerings could be offered to God, just as it was written in God's law.

The people once again gave money, food, drink, and oil to the helpers who were bringing supplies and working on the temple.

When the foundation of the new temple was finished, the people gathered for a special ceremony. The priests wore robes, and the people praised God with trumpets and cymbals. The people let out a loud shout of praise to the Lord for the foundation of the temple being laid.

Some of the priests and Levites who had seen the first temple cried loudly when they saw the foundation of the new temple. Other people shouted with joy. Some people could not tell if the sound of shouting was for joy or from crying because the shouting was so loud that it could be heard far away.

- **BASED ON EZRA 2:68-3:13**



---

## TELL THE STORY

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

- What needed to be rebuilt? (*the temple*)
- What was the temple used for? (*a place to worship God*)
- What did the people give to rebuild the temple? (*gold, silver, and priestly garments*)
- In what city was the temple being rebuilt? (*Jerusalem*)
- What did some of the priests and Levites do when they saw the new temple? (*cried loudly*)
- Why were some people unable to tell if the shouting was for joy or from crying? (*because it was so loud*)
- In what Bible book can the Bible story be found? (*Ezra*)



---

## BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

---

### STATION 1

Allow kids to dress up for the Lord (crowns, robes, jewelry, etc.) and get ready to praise the Lord with different instruments. Encourage kid to pick their favorite worship song to sing and praise too.

### STATION 2

Give kids blocks (Legos, wooden blocks, or even paper “bricks”) and have them work together to build a “temple foundation.” As they build, talk about how the people were excited even though it wasn’t finished yet.

### STATION 3

Make shakers with toilet paper rolls and water bottles to praise the Lord with. Allow the kids to decorate their instrument and get ready to worship the Lord. Explain how the people in the story praised God loudly so others could hear it “far away.”

### STATION 4

Give each child a dry erase board and have them write out something they are thankful for! Switch white boards around the table and have the kids guess who wrote each praise of thanks. Talk about how the people sang to praise and thank God for all he has done for them.

### STATION 5

Play name that tune with the kids. Use the CF Kids Playlist Link ([Here](#)) and play a song at random to see who can name that praise the fastest.