

Spring Quarter: March • April • May 2022



# BEGINNERS' STORIES



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# Letter to the Parents

Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with me as we learn about God's Word together. Your child is going to enjoy learning the lessons for this quarter.

This quarter uses the lens of liberation—Christian freedom—to examine and experience the nature of God, who acts to deliver and free people in different situations. This liberation is experienced in the story of the Passover and in the Good News of Easter. Liberation is experienced in God's new covenant community.

Unit I, "Liberating Passover," consists of four lessons that explore the memory of the liberating event of the Exodus. The memory of the Exodus, relived in the Passover liturgy, cultivated a desire for restoration and liberation for the Hebrew people—as told in the books of Ezra and Deuteronomy.

Unit II, "Liberating Gospels," offers four lessons that explore the liberating freedom found in the events beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and continuing through His death and resurrection. These lessons are drawn from the gospel of Matthew. The text from the book of John describes the liberating freedom found by following Jesus.

Unit III, "Liberating Letters," contains five lessons based on the letters to the Romans and Galatians that explore Paul's understanding of the radical nature of Christian freedom. The final lesson in the unit focuses on the fruit of the Spirit emanating from Christian freedom.

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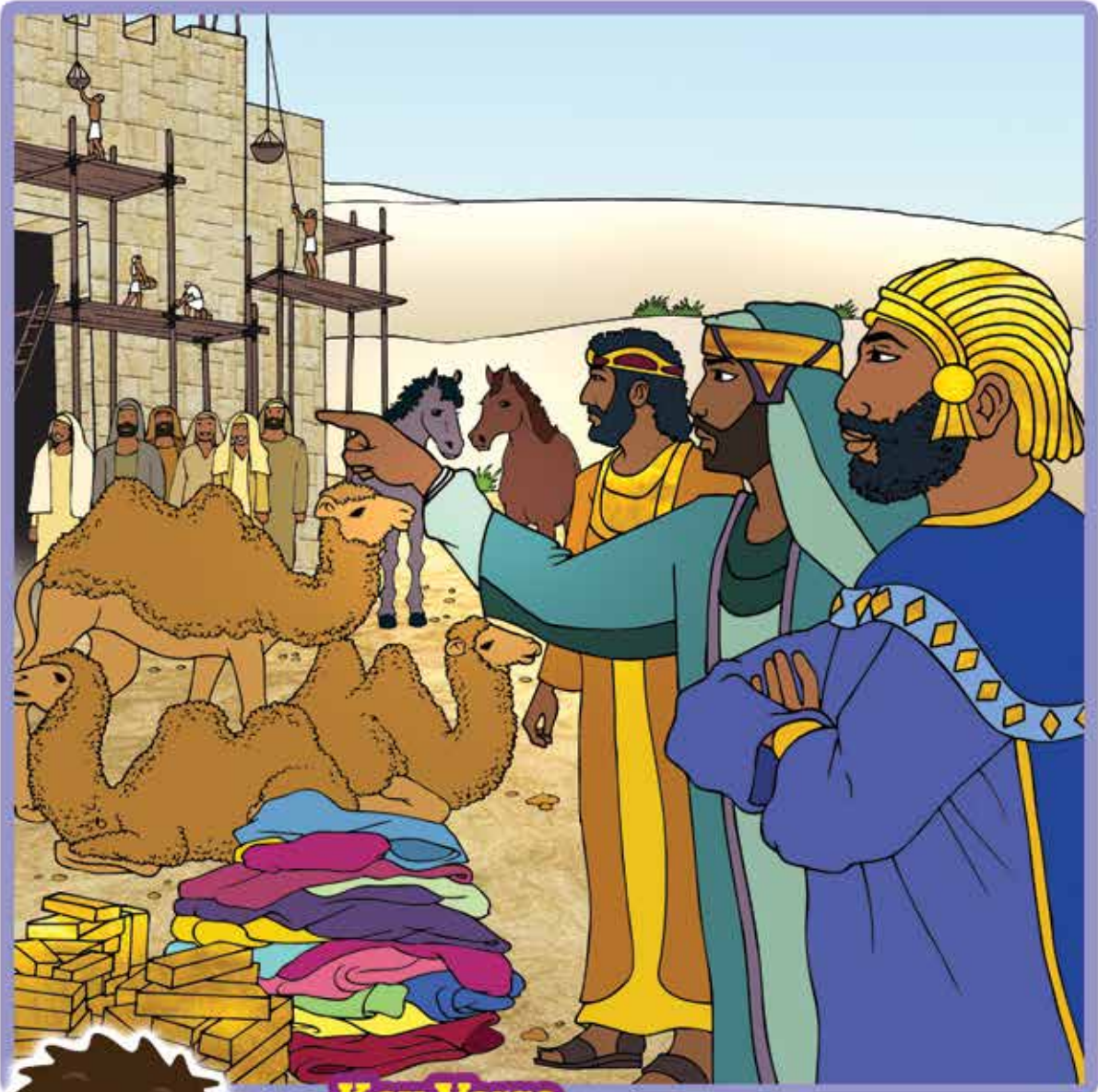
Your Child's Teacher





# Providing Needed Help

Ezra 1:1-8, 11; 2:64-70



## Key Verse

All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings. (Ezra 1:6)







## Providing Needed Help

(Ezra 1:1-8, 11; 2:64-70)

God chose King Cyrus to build God's Temple in Jerusalem. So, King Cyrus gave the Jewish people permission to return to their home in Jerusalem. King Cyrus ordered neighbors to help by giving gold and silver items, valuable gifts, and animals. King Cyrus also returned valuable items that belonged in God's Temple.

God filled the priests, Levites, and Jewish family leaders with the desire to return to Jerusalem. More than forty thousand Jewish people, and many slaves, singers, and animals, returned. When they arrived, they gave an offering to God. And everyone settled in their own town.

## For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard how God used King Cyrus of Persia to rebuild His Temple in Jerusalem. King Cyrus ordered neighbors to provide the Jews returning to Jerusalem with valuable items and supplies. King Cyrus also returned valuable items that belonged in the Temple. Review today's lesson with your child, emphasizing the importance of being a good helper. Give your child a task. Upon completion, acknowledge his or her helpfulness.

**Faith Block**

I am a good  
helper!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Child's Teacher



# Provisions to Build and to Honor

Ezra 6:1-12



## Key Verse

[Written on a scroll found in the province of Media:] Let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders rebuild this house of God on its site. (Ezra 6:7b)







## Provisions to Build and to Honor

(Ezra 6:1-12)

Long ago, God had given King Cyrus orders to rebuild His Temple. In today's lesson, King Darius found and followed those orders.

The order said to use the royal treasury to build the Temple. They were to return the gold and silver treasures to the Temple.

Then King Darius ordered the governor to let the Jewish people rebuild God's Temple. Everything was to be paid for with money out of the royal treasury. He ordered that they give the Jewish people anything they needed to worship God. If the governor and leaders refused, their homes would be made into piles of rubble.

## For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard how the new king of Persia, King Darius, reestablished King Cyrus's decree allowing for the rebuilding of God's Temple in Jerusalem. King Darius ordered that some resources be given so that the Jewish people could complete the project and worship God. As you review this lesson, talk with your child about your family's daily provisions. Then, together, give thanks to God.

**Faith Block**

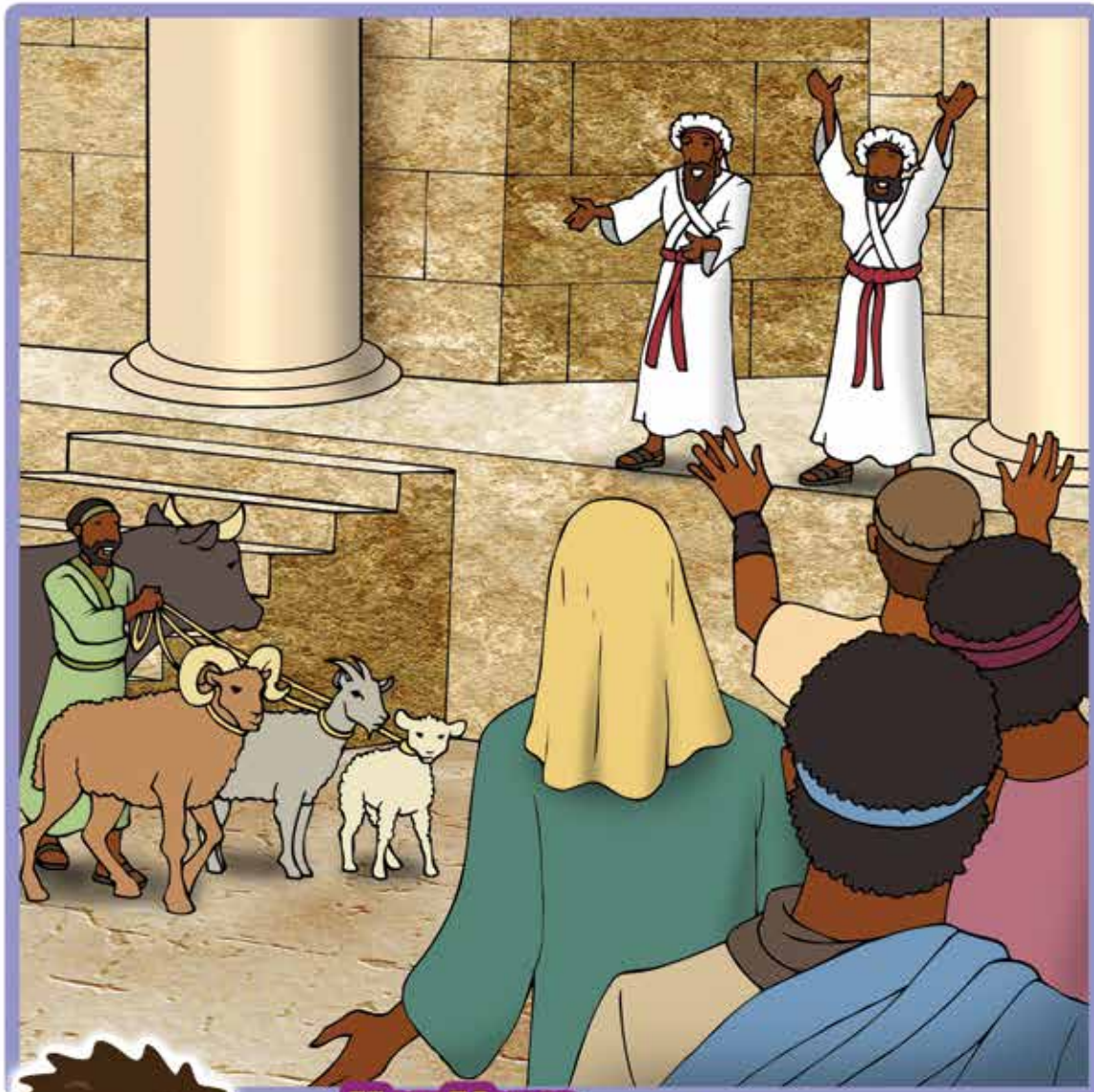
God provides  
for us!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Child's Teacher



# Celebration of Completion

Ezra 6:13-22



## Key Verse

For seven days [the Israelites] celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel. (Ezra 6:22)







## Celebration of Completion

(Ezra 6:13-22)

The governor quickly carried out King Darius's order. Prophets Haggai and Zechariah preached. And the Jewish people worked. Finally, the Temple was completed! The Temple was dedicated to God. And the priests, the Jewish people, and others celebrated!

The next big celebration was Passover. The priests and Levites got everything ready for the celebration. And the Jewish people ate the Passover meal together. Everyone who loved God celebrated the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days! They were filled with joy because God convinced the king to help them finish God's Temple.

## For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard that King Darius's order was quickly carried out. The prophets provided spiritual encouragement as the people completed the rebuilding of the Temple. The priests, people of Israel, and others were filled with joy as they celebrated the Temple dedication and the Passover. Talk with your child about the importance of thanking and praising God when he or she completes a task. Play an upbeat praise song and praise God together.

**Faith Block**

God gives  
me joy!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Child's Teacher