

OLD TESTAMENT 2022

Come, Follow Me with *Living Scriptures* STREAMING

Doing a Great Work

Ezra 1; 3-7; Nehemiah 2; 4-6; 8

Objectives:

- Talk about the Jews' return to rebuild the temple and the walls of Jerusalem. Discuss how we can overcome opposition as we do God's work.

Reinforces Principles of:

- Focus, Faith in Opposition

Reverence Time

Song: I Will Be Valiant, Children's Songbook page 162

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/i-will-be-valiant>

Scripture: Nehemiah 6:3

"And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?"

Video: Watch this week's clip from the Living Scriptures Streaming Library. Find the clip at <https://www.livingscriptures.com/fhe-lesson-work>

Lesson

Summary:

Years after the scattering of Israel, the Lord softened the heart of the king of Persia and the king let the Jews go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Although they faced opposition, the Jews rejoiced as the temple was rebuilt and dedicated. Ezra was a priest who "prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it." He taught the people the law of Moses and helped to rebuild the temple.

Several years later, Nehemiah wanted to join the Jews to help rebuild the city wall. He was a servant to the king and he was sad because he couldn't join the Jews in Jerusalem. The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad and asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah explained that he wanted to help the Jews rebuild the city. The king allowed him to go, and gave him provisions. Nehemiah was faithful and worked hard to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem even when others mocked and threatened him. He said, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down."

As we build and strengthen the kingdom of God we may face opposition and mocking. Let us remember that we are doing a great work and keep our focus on the Lord and His plan of happiness.

Quote:

"It is easy to become distracted—to become focused on one burned-out lightbulb or the impolite acts of unkind people, whatever their motive may be. But think of the power we would have as individuals and as a body of the priesthood if, in response to every temptation to lose focus or lower our standards—the standards of God, we responded, 'I am doing a great work and cannot come down.'" Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Questions:

How did the Lord help the Jews start rebuilding the temple and the city of Jerusalem?
How did the Jews show their joy for the temple as it was being built?
How did Ezra prepare himself?
What did Nehemiah do when he faced opposition?

Description: The Saints had to prepare themselves to build and enter the new temple. Learn what we can do to be prepared to enter the temple with this activity.

What you need: ■ A copy of the “Building Temples” artwork for each child, scissors, tape

Preparation:

1. Print out the artwork
2. Cut along dotted lines
3. Fold along solid lines

Activity: (Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

1. Ask: If we will all be resurrected and live again, why do we need to be baptized, keep the commandments, repent and receive temple ordinances? (Discuss ideas.)
2. Ask: Why is it important to live worthily to go to the temple? (Discuss ideas.)
“Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are sacred structures... Each is dedicated as a house of the Lord, a place of holiness and peace shut apart from the world. There truths are taught and ordinances are performed that bring knowledge of things eternal and motivate the participants to live with an understanding of our divine inheritance as children of God and an awareness of our potential as eternal beings.” *President Gordon B. Hinckley, Why These Temples?* © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
3. Play the “Building Temples” activity: (See instructions on next page.)



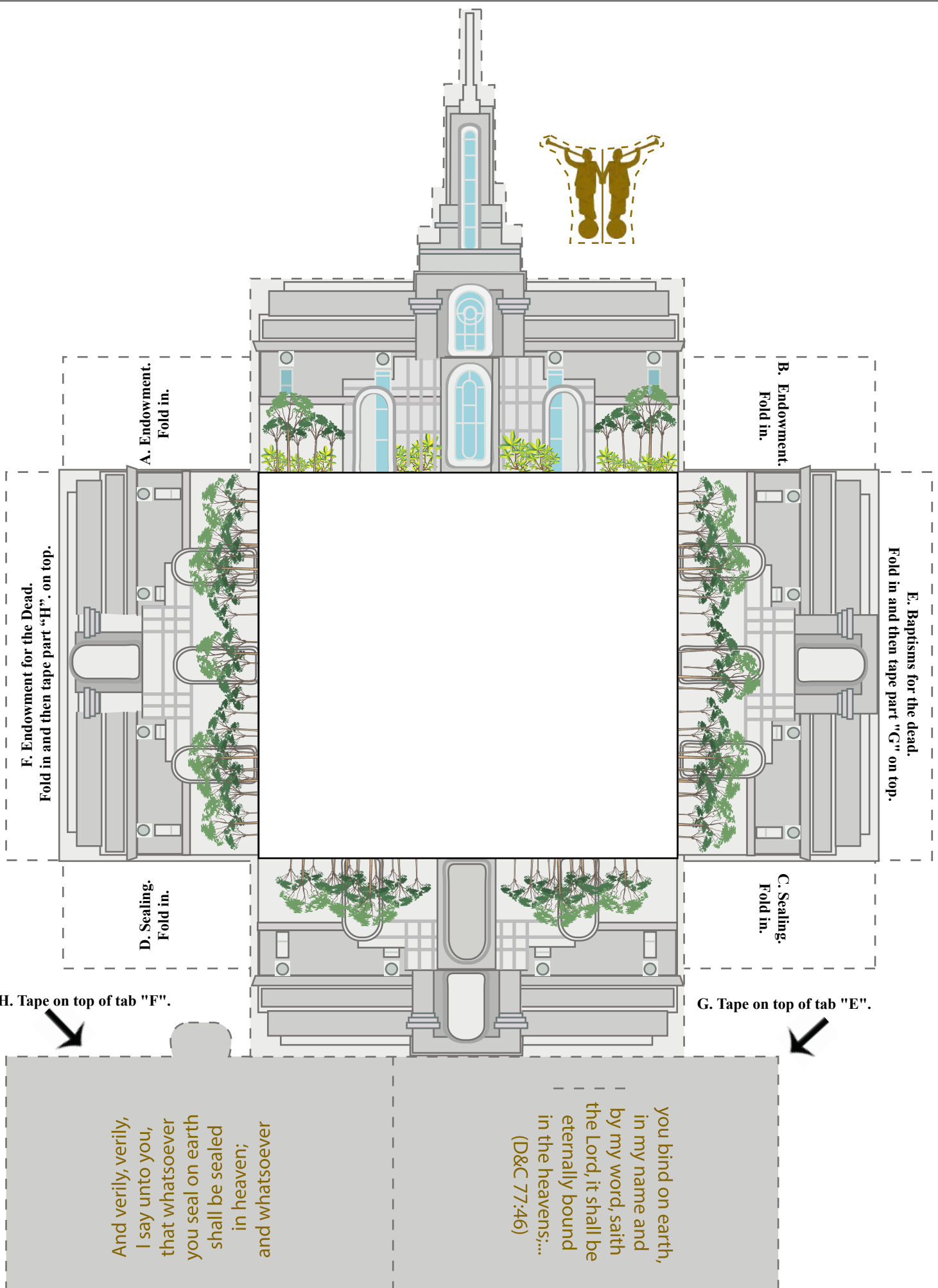
“Building a Temple” Activity Instructions

We build temples for:

- 1. Fold in tab A & B. Tape together to build walls. (Always apply tape to both sides.)**
The endowment ordinance (gift): In the temple we receive our own endowment (gift) from our Heavenly Father that helps prepare us for eternal life with Him.
- 2. Fold in tab C & D. Tape together to build walls.**
The sealing ordinance: In the temple, sealing ordinances are performed to help us be together forever as families. If a couple is married in the temple, all of their future children are also sealed to them. Families who have not yet been sealed should prepare to go to the temple. To be a family forever is a blessing given to those who are sealed in the temple and keep the promises they make there.
- 3. Fold in tab E. Tape part G to top to build roof.**
Baptisms for the dead: In the temple we can be vicariously (done by somebody as a substitute for someone else) baptized for people who have died and were not able to receive this ordinance while they lived on earth.
- 4. Fold in tab F. Tape part G to top to build roof.**
Endowment for the Dead: In the temple we can also be endowed vicariously for people who have died and were not able to receive this ordinance while they lived on the earth.
- 5. Fold and tape the Angel Moroni together to form a pocket. Slide onto steeple.**
Sealing for the Dead: In the temple we can also be sealed vicariously for families who have died and were not able to receive this ordinance while they lived on the earth.

Preparing to go to the temple:

Explain to your children that obeying these commandments will help them be worthy to go to the temple when they are older. (Read and discuss the words on the cards together. If time permits let children draw an illustration on the back of each card. Put cards into your temples with a promise to prepare and keep yourself worthy to go to the temple.



PRAY

**OBEY
PARENTS**

**LOVE
ONE
ANOTHER**

**GO TO
CHURCH**

**PAY
TITHING**

**KEEP
THE
WORD
OF
WISDOM**

BE
HONEST

BE
CHASTE

SERVE
OTHERS

READ
SCRIPTURES

GAIN
AND
SHARE
TESTIMONY

HONOR
YOUR
CHURCH
LEADERS

Treat Time

Temple Cookies

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Bake Time: 8 minutes
Chill Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients: 3/4 c. sugar
1/4 c. shortening
1 t. vanilla
1 egg
2 1/2 c. flour
1/2 t. baking soda
1/2 t. baking powder
1/4 t. salt
1/4 c. + 2 T. cold water



Instructions: Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees F. Cream together sugar, shortening, eggs and vanilla. Sift together flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Slowly mix in sifted, dry ingredients to the creamed ingredients. Add water. Continue to mix until a soft dough forms. Chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Roll out on a floured surface to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out using pattern pieces. Bake on a prepared pan for 8 minutes. Cool before frosting.

Treat Time: Frost with your favorite white frosting. Build your temple cookies by using extra frosting as mortar between pieces. If desired; tint a small amount of frosting yellow to represent the Angel Moroni.

