

Lesson 5: Restoration

Today's Bible Story

When King Cyrus of Persia took over Babylon, he allowed the Jewish people to return to their homes. He even gave them permission to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

So, many Israelites returned to their homeland and went together to Jerusalem. The priest Joshua, along with the other priests, rebuilt the altar of Israel's God. They began to offer sacrifices there, following the instructions God had given to Moses.

Some of the people who were already living in the city didn't like what was happening. They didn't trust the newcomers, and they didn't want the temple to be rebuilt. But that did not stop the people from worshiping the LORD. Even though the work on the temple itself had not yet begun, the people started gathering together to pray and offer sacrifices on the LORD's altar both day and night.

King Cyrus of Persia had told the Israelites they could have cedar trees brought from Lebanon to Joppa by sea. So the Israelites sent grain, wine, and olive oil to the cities as payment for these trees, and they gave money to the stoneworkers and carpenters, who started work on the temple and restored its foundations.

When the builders had finished laying the foundation of the temple, the priests put on their robes and blew trumpets in honor of the LORD. They praised the LORD and gave thanks as they took turns singing: "The LORD is good! His faithful love for Israel will last forever!"

Their shouting and crying were so noisy that it was heard for miles around.



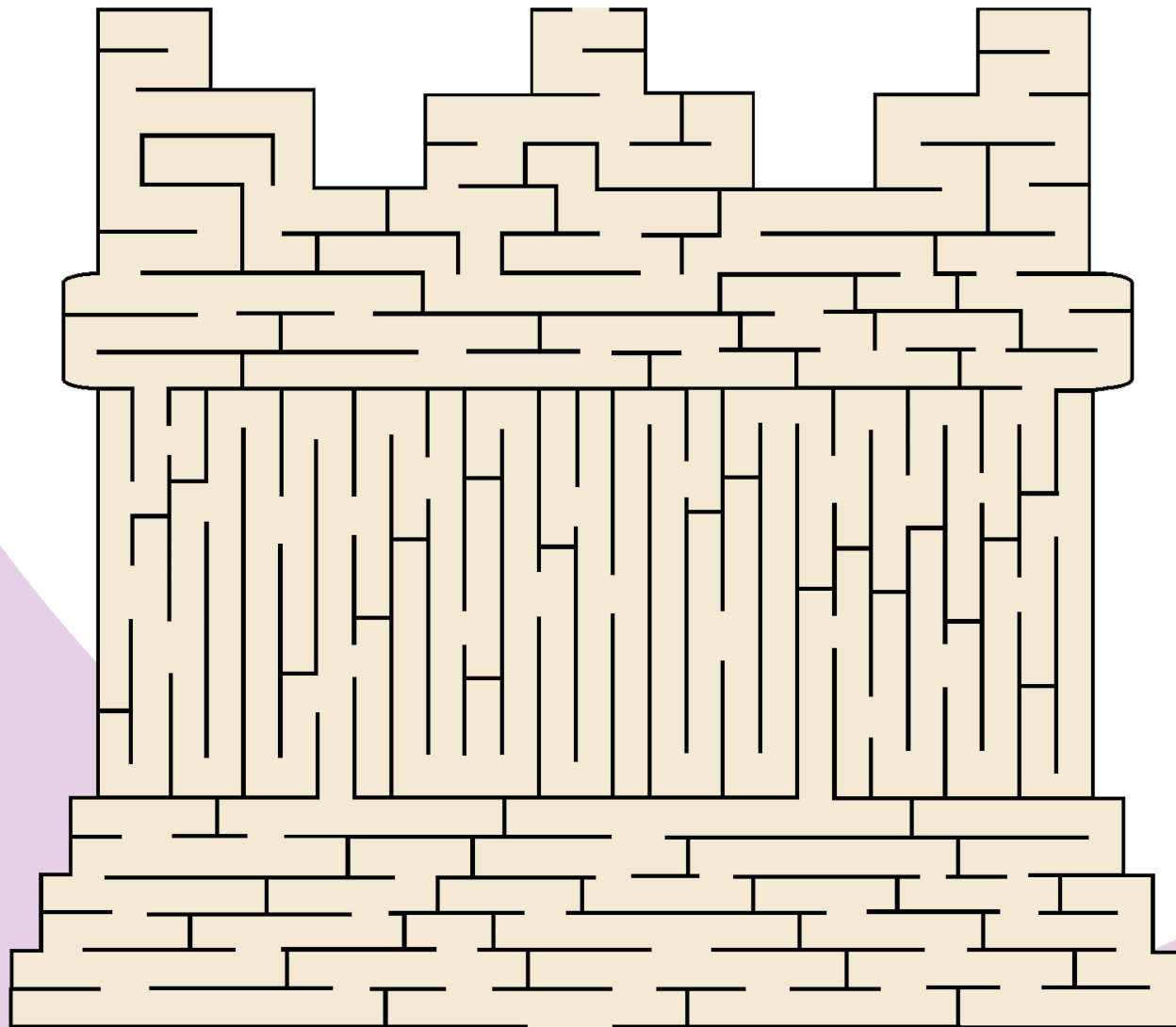
From Ezra 3:1-13

Bible Rhyme

God's people were returning home
after years of being gone.
They wanted to restore the temple
which wasn't going to be so simple.
They needed wood to use to build
and carpenters with all their skills.
The masons cut and laid down blocks,
a firm foundation built from rock.
The priests rebuilt the holy altar.
In their prayers they did not falter.
They sacrificed and thanked the LORD,
praising him with one accord!

Find your way through the temple maze,
starting at the bottom and making your way to the pinnacle at the top.

Pinnacle



What part of the temple shown above
is the foundation of the building?



Why is it important that the
foundation of a building is strong?

Discussion Questions:

Read the parable that Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 7:24-27.

How does our faith in God give us a solid foundation on which to build our lives?

Read what the Apostle Paul says about Jesus in Ephesians 2:17-22.

In what way do we, as God's people, serve as the dwelling place of God?

How can fellow believers help and support one another, especially in difficult times?