



December 17, 2023, Advent III: Rebuilding the Temple Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Gracious God, as creator of all that is, you lay the foundation of our faith. Help us to build on that foundation through your holy word and meal, this day and always. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel. Ezra 3:10



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The king of Persia restores the people of Israel to their homeland and makes it possible for them to re-build the center of their identity: the temple. But some people still remember "the good old days" and just can't share in the community's joy.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Where does your group or congregation worship? Does the history of the building cause conflicts or is it a celebrated space?
- What place is your safe space? What makes it special to you?
- For the littles: What is your favorite part about your room? God has a special love for you!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May you feel the celebration and love of God in all spaces. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Volunteer some time to help with the building you worship in. Offer time to clean, serve communion, run the sound and visual system—whatever is needed.

Daily Readings	Narrative Lectionary Readings
Sunday	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4; 10-13
Monday	Ezra 6:1-12
Tuesday	Ezra 6:13-18
Wednesday	Ezra 6:19-22
Thursday	Zechariah 8:1-8
Friday	Zechariah 8:14-23
Saturday	Zechariah 9:9-17
Sunday	Luke 1:5-25, 57-80