

# The Story Week 19 - God's House

## Overview Card

**Weekly Bible Verse:**

They will be my people. I will be their faithful God. I will keep my promises to them. — Zechariah 8:8

**Bible Point:**

God's people promise to follow his ways. God wants me to follow him.

**Coloring Page:**

God's Temple

**Resource:**

The Story for Little Ones, Chapter 19:  
God's House



The Story Memory Verse - February  
"Don't be afraid of your enemies.  
Remember the Lord. He is great and  
powerful." Nehemiah 4:14

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## ACTIVITY



### Story Time - Lend a Helping Hand

**What You Need:** The Berenstain Bears book, "Lend a Helping Hand"

**What You Do:** Gather the children together onto the carpet and read the book, "Lend a Helping Hand".

#### **What You Say:**

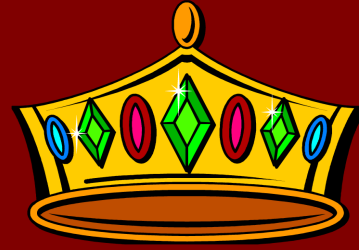
"When Mama concludes that there's too much "Me, me, me!" in Brother and Sister's behavior, she encourages them to help elderly Widow McGrizz deal with her full and messy attic. This is very similar to our Bible story today. In our story, God told his people to work on his temple first and then work on their houses. However, after God's people finished the temple foundation they stopped working on it. God's people started to worry about themselves and put themselves before God. God had to remind them to work on his house first and not to worry about themselves. God wants us to make good choices that put Him first. God's way is the right choice! The bears were putting God first and following his ways when they gave of their time and helped Widow McGrizz."



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### Beautiful Buildings

**What You Need:** "Building Pictures" and white cardstock.

**What You Do:**

*Before the activity:* Make one copy of "Building Pictures" on white cardstock.

*During the activity:* Hold up the pictures one at a time and talk about what they look like and how those buildings are used. Once you have introduced all of the pictures, review them and see if the children can name the pictures without your help. Hold the temple picture up several times throughout your review.

**What You Say:**

*During the activity:* "I have some pictures of things people have built. Let's see if you can tell me what they are. *(Hold the pictures up one at a time. Allow the children to help you say the names and uses of each picture.)* You are SO very smart! I have one more picture. This is a picture of a temple. It's kind of like our church building. It's a place where people can go and worship God. Now that you know all of the pictures, let's see how fast you can name them. When I hold up a picture, you tell me what it is." *(Review the pictures, holding each one up several times. Make sure to hold up the temple picture enough times so that the children can say the word "temple" when they see it.)*

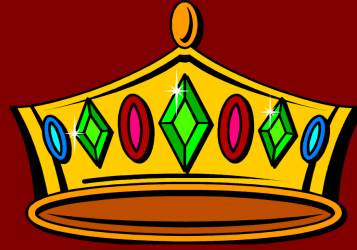
**At the end of the activity:** "Today, we learned about a temple. In our story, we learned how God's people were forced to live in Babylon for many years. When they got to go home to Jerusalem they realized that their enemies had destroyed God's temple. God told his people to rebuild His temple."



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### Temple Builders

**What You Need:** 40 large rectangles cut out of paper to make stone bricks with the following words, and tape.

**4 Stones: Foundation**

**4 Stones: Wall**

**1 Stone: Door**

**2 Stones: Window**

**4 Stones: Roof**

**25 Stones: Draw a Red X**

**What You Do:** Stack all the stones in a pile facing down. Assign a number to each child to determine the order of turns. The first child chooses a stone. If the stone lists a building part, he or she sticks it to the wall in the proper location:

Foundation: Bottom Row

Wall: Middle Row

Roof: Top Row

Door and Windows: Place onto the structure as appropriate

If the child picks up a red X brick, he or she keeps it. Next child takes a turn. Play until all the bricks have been selected and placed.

### What You Say:

Let's pretend we are Israelites. For many years, we have been forced to live in Babylon. Now we are home in Jerusalem! But the enemies have destroyed God's temple. We need to rebuild it. When it is your turn, pick out a stone brick and put it in the correct place on the temple. If you find a red X, hold onto it and do not add that stone to the temple.

**At the end of the activity:** "If we did not have to pick up and keep the red X stones, how much faster would we have built the temple? (It would have been finished much faster.) Hold your X stones high in the air. The red X stones stand for all the stones the Israelites did not use to rebuild the temple. They used these stones to build their own houses instead of God's temple. God warned the people to think carefully about how they were acting. They needed to choose to be strong and work on His temple before they improved their own houses. God wants us to make good choices that put Him first. God's way is the right choice!"



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### Four Praise Corners

**What You Need:** No Supplies Necessary

#### **What You Do:**

Choose a Corner Caller to stand in the middle of the room, close his or her eyes and count aloud to 10. Children rush to choose and stand in different corners before the Corner Caller reaches 10. Corner Caller calls out one of the four corner titles. All children in that corner recite the Bible verse together. Choose another Corner Caller and play again. All children remain in the game.

Four Corners: Temple, Houses, Jerusalem, and Babylon



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## CRAFT



### Choose God First

**What You Need:** Number 1 finger activity page, scissors, and markers.

#### What You Do:

Color a Number 1 finger to help children remember to choose God's way first.

**What You Say:** "Today, we learned about a temple. In our story, we learned how God's people were forced to live in Babylon for many years. When they got to go home to Jerusalem they realized that their enemies had destroyed God's temple. God told his people to rebuild His temple. However, we learned that God's people stopped working on the temple and started fixing up their own houses. God warned the people to think carefully about how they were acting. They needed to choose to be strong and work on His temple before they improved their own houses. God wants us to make good choices that put Him first. Our Number 1 finger reminds us to choose to do what God wants, first. God's way is the right choice!"



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