

Hezekiah Restores Temple Worship

2 Chronicles 29:20-36

MEMORY VERSE

2 CHRONICLES 29:29

“And when they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed and worshiped.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Margarine (or butter), sugar, cocoa, water, vanilla, uncooked instant oatmeal, measuring cups, plastic bowls, spoons, powdered sugar, and party supplies such as party hats (can be made) and noisemakers.

A chair for each child, lively children’s worship music on CD, and a CD player.

As many “Memory Verse Puzzler” templates as the number of children in your class, construction paper, glue sticks, scissors, and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Celebration

King Hezekiah restored the worship in the temple of the Lord. When he did this, there was a great celebration. We, too, can celebrate the fact that we can worship the Lord. In fact, we can worship the Lord anywhere or anytime we want to.

You will need margarine, or butter, sugar, cocoa, water, vanilla, uncooked instant oatmeal, measuring cups, plastic bowls, spoons, powdered sugar, and party supplies such as party hats (can be made) and noisemakers.

Set out the cookie ingredients, measuring cups, plastic bowls, and spoons. Invite kids to wash their hands then join in the fun of preparing a special no-bake celebration treat. This recipe will make enough cookies for 10 people.

Cream 2/3 cup of margarine or butter. Stir in 3/4 cup of sugar, 3 tablespoons of cocoa, 1 tablespoon of water, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Blend in 2 cups of uncooked instant oatmeal. Shape the mixture into small balls, then roll the balls in powdered sugar. Hand out the cookies, party hats, and noisemakers and let kids celebrate Jesus!

NOTE: Please make sure to notify parents that you are serving cookies so they can alert you to any allergies, etc.

LESSON TIME!

Remember our lesson last week? King Hezekiah made a decision to “do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done.” The wicked King Ahaz, the father of Hezekiah, had led the nation away from God and into the worship of idols. King Hezekiah determined to destroy the idols and turn the nation back to God. Within the first month of his reign, he set out to cleanse and restore the temple—the house of Lord.

When the priests announced that the cleansing and restoration of the temple was complete, Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord.

2 CHRONICLES 29:20-24

Then King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.

And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

So they killed the bulls, and the priests received the blood and sprinkled it on the altar. Likewise they killed the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar. They also killed the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.

Then they brought out the male goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

And the priests killed them; and they presented their blood on the altar as a sin offering to make an atonement for all Israel, for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering be made for all Israel.

The king and the city officials brought seven bulls, seven rams, and seven lambs for burnt offerings. According to Leviticus 1, a burnt offering is a male from a herd or flock, a year old and without defect. The sacrifice is to be prepared in a specific way. The burnt offering, according to the Law of Moses, was an aroma pleasing to the Lord. Given from the best (most valuable) of the animals, the offering reflected a true heart of worship and dedication. The burnt offering was an offering of consecration—the consecration of one's life, one's body, to serve God. We are called to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice in praise and worship to the Lord (Romans 12:1). **God wants us to worship Him with our whole hearts.**

After twenty-one burnt offerings, the seven male goats were offered up as a sin offering. Per God's instruction, the blood of the animal sacrifice was sprinkled on the altar after they were slaughtered. We see here a picture of the Lord Jesus' blood being sprinkled, being shed on the altar of the cross almost a thousand years later. He offered His body freely, one sacrifice for our sins forever. Because of His sacrifice, we are sanctified (set apart) for His service!

2 CHRONICLES 29:25-30

And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.

The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel.

So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

And when they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed and worshiped.

Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Levites with instruments were stationed, per Hezekiah's instructions, and ready to play. In 2 Chronicles 23:18, we read that David set up this special ministry of the Levites. King David loved to worship the Lord in the tabernacle with song, instruments, and dance. Some Levites were appointed as singers; others played to the Lord on cymbals, harps and lyres. When the burnt offerings began, the song of the Lord began!

The whole assembly bowed and worshiped; they sang praises with gladness. King Hezekiah led the nation in this joyful revival. Today, the pastors and teachers of the church seek to lead their congregations in worship and consecration to the Lord. Remember to pray for those who work among you—that they might have an undivided heart just as Hezekiah did. **God wants us to worship Him with our whole hearts.**

Musical Chairs

For a fun time, play a game of musical chairs. Find some lively children's music to play, enough chairs for the number of children in your class, and a CD player.

Explain to the children that it is important to worship the Lord. Take the opportunity to talk about appropriate behavior during worship and the privilege that it is.

Place all of the chairs in a circle. Have one chair for each child. When the music begins have them stand up and go in a circle around the room. Take one chair out then stop the music. Tell the children to scramble to the chairs. The one child remaining can sit out until they have another turn. Keep playing as long as time allows.

2 CHRONICLES 29:31-36

Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

The consecrated things were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.

But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brethren the Levites helped them until the work was ended and until the other priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more diligent in sanctifying themselves than the priests.

Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order.

Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.

Now it was time for the people to bring their sacrifices. Remember what a sacrifice is? An acceptable sacrifice was to be the best (most valuable) of one's flock. The Bible says, "all whose hearts are willing." God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). May our demonstrations of worship always be with true, *willing* hearts. **God wants us to worship Him with our whole hearts.**

Try to imagine what it must have been like to offer 3,600 bulls, sheep, and goats. First they were slaughtered, then their blood was sprinkled on the altar and the pieces were all laid out in just a certain way. These things took time. The priests needed some help for this big task. Some of the priests had not sanctified themselves yet (it took seven days to do this, Leviticus 8:33-35). So, some of the Levites were allowed to participate in the sacrificing, since they had already sanctified themselves by going through the special cleansing process. Do you remember that the Levites came from Levi, who was one of the twelve sons of Jacob? The priests were Levites also, but they served as priests because they were great-grandsons of Aaron, the brother of Moses.

There were so many sacrifices to carry out; it probably took a few days to finish. Meanwhile the Levites were leading the music and all the people of Israel were rejoicing and worshipping the Lord.

So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order. How blessed the nation was to have a godly King who turned the people's heart toward the Lord. How thankful the people should be that King Hezekiah chose to do "what was right in the eyes of the Lord." For, the Bible says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Let us pray that the Lord would raise up leaders in our church and in our nation who will lead the people with an undivided heart. Let us pray for our president, that he would “do what is right in the eyes of the Lord.” And, let us pray that we will have an undivided heart, consecrating ourselves wholly to God’s service. **God wants us to worship Him with our whole hearts.**

Memory Verse Puzzler

You will need the “puzzler” template for this. Make enough copies for each child in your class. You will also need construction paper, glue sticks, scissors, and markers.

Have the children cut out the puzzle and glue it onto a sheet of construction paper. Use the memory verse and write one word in each puzzle piece (some can remain blank). For younger children, you can fill in the words on the puzzle pieces prior to copying your template.

Next allow the children to cut out the puzzle pieces. After they are cut out, they can mix them up and put them back together again in order of the verse.

Note: As an option for younger children, you can just draw a picture of a temple to go with your story in addition to or instead of the memory verse. It would be easier for young children to put together a picture instead of words.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to worship the Lord with a pure, undivided heart. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

