



PARENT STUDY

Individually this week, spend time reading Chapter 19 of *The Story* or Ezra 1-6, Haggai 1 and Zechariah 8.

As you study, pray that God shows you things that encourage, challenge, enlighten, and spur you to a stronger faith in Him.

BY YOURSELF...

Use these simple questions and prompts to help you ponder and prepare to discuss this week's chapter with your family.

1. **Sometimes we need to rebuild our lives as a 'temple' for God. Think about some life-rebuilding projects you have embarked on. What caused the rebuild? How have you kept your 'temple' from crashing down again? If it's torn down currently, what needs to be done to repair it?**
2. **Who are the people in your life that you feel are co-laborers in the faith? Do they know you appreciate them? How can you strive to not be a 'lone ranger' living out your faith?**
3. **What is something else from this story that stuck out to me? How can I share that with my family as we seek to grow as disciples?**



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FAMILY STUDY

This Week

Use the following resource to engage with God as a family.

Read **THE STORY** Chapter 19: *The Return Home*
in *The Story for Little Ones/Children/Kids*

Do Together: *Out-Of-Balance*

WHAT YOU NEED: A Wall

WHAT YOU DO: Ask children to stand sideways against a wall and put one shoulder and one foot against the wall. Challenge them to try to lift the other foot off the floor. *This is more difficult than it looks!* After a few tries, explain that this action requires shifting your body's balancing point, but the wall keeps you from doing that.

Discuss: Have everyone talk about something they've done that looked easy but turned out to be hard. Do you like to try new things, or do you like to stay with the old way?

Explain: Say, "In the Bible story today, we'll see that God's people reached a point where they had to shift their balancing point. They had to make some changes to do what God asked them to do."

Talk About

- * God's people pitched in their gold and silver to make God's temple magnificent. Talk about a time when you worked together with friends to accomplish a big task. Did it work better when everyone shared?
- * Have you ever known God wanted you to do something and had others stand in your way? What did you do? What was the end result?

Pray Together: *Father, help us to look to You when we need more balance in our lives. And, thanks for placing friends and family in our lives so we can work together for You. AMEN.*

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