



## Story: The Temple is Finished

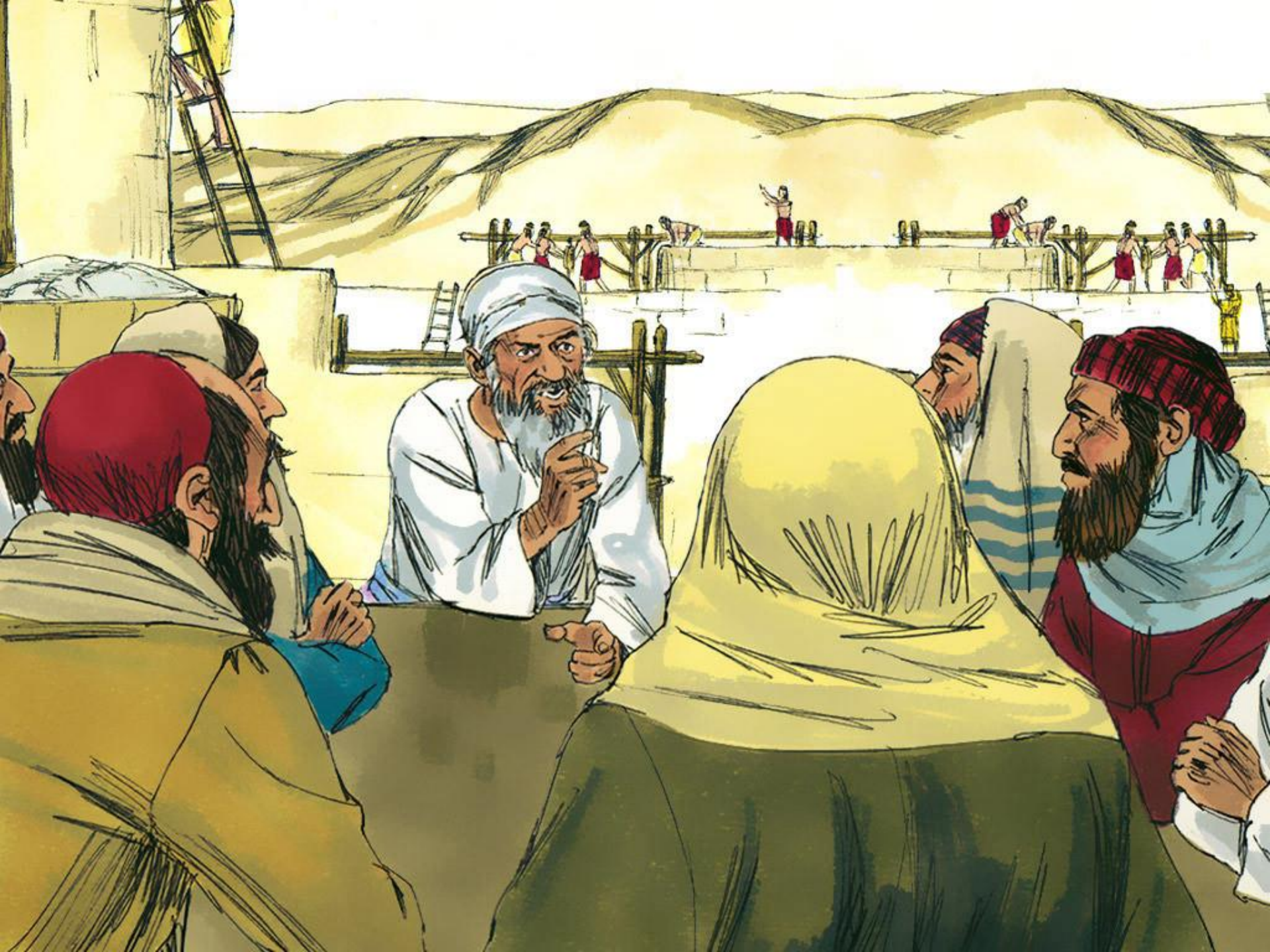
### Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

- 8 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")
- 8 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

### Directions

- Print pages 2-17 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.



***Before holding up the picture:***

What did we talk about last time in class? (*Zechariah gave the Israelites hope for a Messiah*)

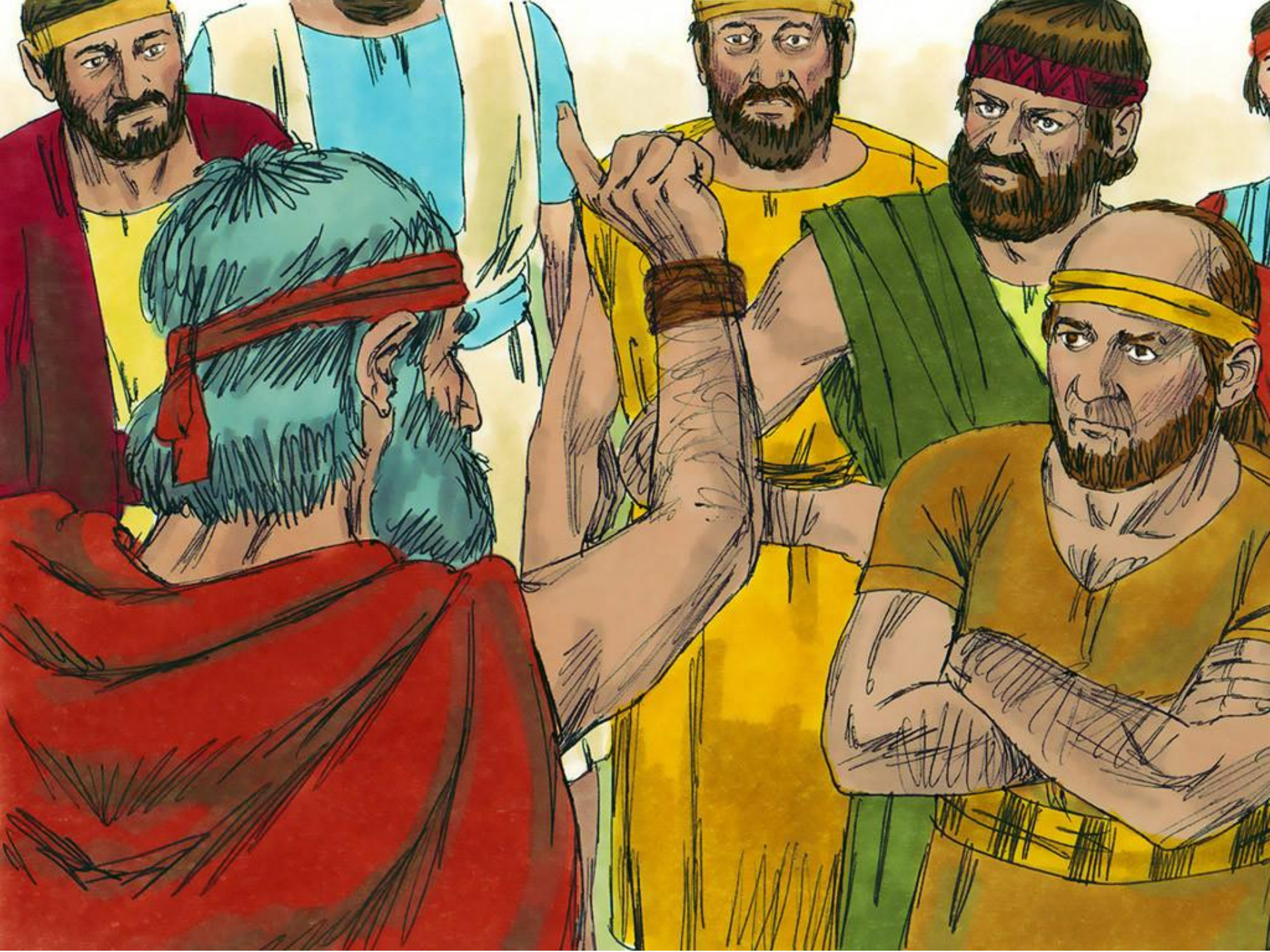
What had Haggai encouraged the Israelites to do? (*Finish the Temple*)

How long had the Temple been sitting unfinished? (*Sixteen years*)

***Hold up picture:***

When Haggai and Zechariah spoke God's messages to the Israelites, Jeshua and Zerubbabel got the people back to work on building the Temple.





***Hold up picture:***

But once the Temple rebuilding resumed, so did the resistance from the locals. Tattenai was the governor of the region and he came and asked the Jews, “Who has commanded you to build this Temple?” The Israelites gave Tattenai their names and told him that King Cyrus had ordered them to rebuild the Temple.





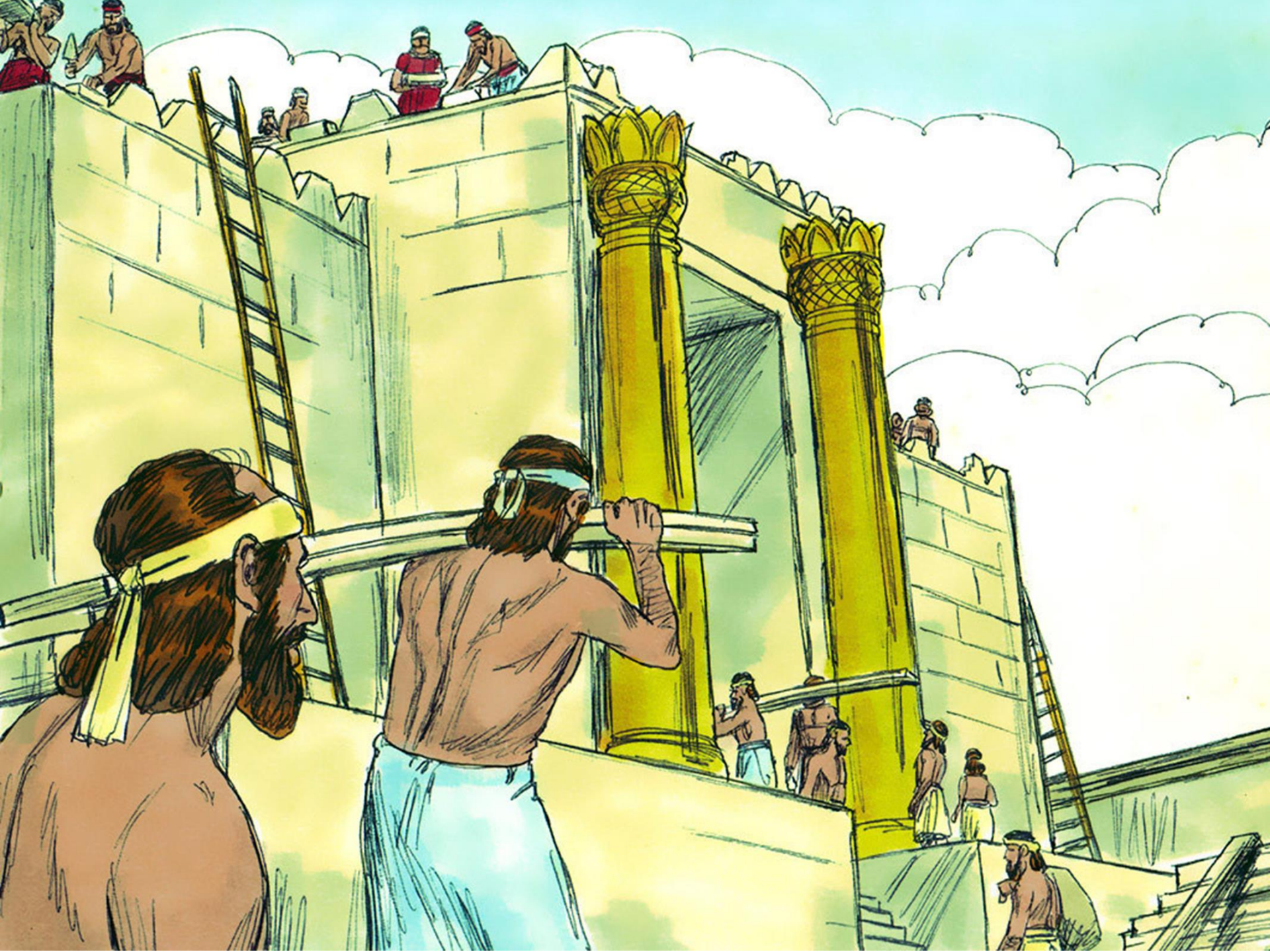
***Hold up picture:***

So Governor Tattenai sent a letter to King Darius to report what the Israelites were doing. Then he asked the king to search the royal archives to see if King Cyrus had really ordered the Israelites to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

***Ask:***

Do you think Tattenai believes the Israelites? *(Answers might vary...point out that if he didn't believe them, he at least was fair and asked the current king to search the old king's records for the truth.)*







***Hold up picture:***

While they waited for a reply from King Darius, the Israelites kept working on the Temple and Governor Tattenai did not stop them because “the eye of God” was watching over them.





***Hold up picture:***

King Darius ordered that a search be made of the records to see what King Cyrus had ordered. They found a book in the palace in the district of Media that contained a record of the command King Cyrus had given. It said that the Jews had been given permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. It also ordered that the gold and silver items from the original temple take by Nebuchadnezzar were to be returned and the construction costs were to be paid by the taxes.





***Hold up picture:***

King Darius immediately gave orders to Tattenai, the governor of the region, not to stop the Temple from being rebuilt. He also ordered Tattenai to keep the enemies of the Jews away from the building site. Also King Darius ordered that the work on the Temple was to be paid from the taxes raised in the region. And the priests were to be given animals for sacrifice and wheat, salt, wine and oil. Anyone who disobeyed this order, or tried to change this law, would be hanged.





***Hold up picture:***

When King Darius's letter was read, Tattenai and the enemies of the Jews had to obey. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah continued to prophesy and encourage the Israelites while they continued working on the Temple without opposition.





### ***Hold up picture:***

Finally, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius, the Temple was finished. The people of Israel gathered with joy to celebrate. Priests were assigned to serve at the Temple. Then to dedicate the Temple to the Lord, the priests sacrificed 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs. Also 12 male goats were sacrificed for the sins of the people.

### ***Discuss:***

What a great story of God's mercy and patience with His people. If someone was building a house for me, I don't think I would be willing to wait 20 years for them to finish it, would you? *(probably not)* God was patient with the Israelites waiting for them to return to Him, but He also sent messengers, like Haggai and Zechariah, to remind and encourage the people to turn back to God. It is the same with us today, God is patient with us when we lose our way, but He has sent His Word to encourage us and that's why it's so important for us to read our Bibles.