



St. Bart's Collective Worship Themes

Autumn 2: Exile to Return and Christmas

Continuing the theme from last half-term, we pick up with the problems of having the wrong king in our lives. Thankfully, God has promised, not just a land but also a king – the King of kings – and Christmas is the beginning of this revelation to the whole World.

The kingdom has been split in two due to the people's (including the kings') rebellion. God's loving discipline now becomes very apparent. Both kingdoms eventually go into exile and things look bleak for God's people but will there be any remnant who will continue to trust in God's promises? The nation is taken out of the land. There are many events that happen during this time, which are part of the growth and formation of the nation. The land is the focus in the Old Testament, so in many ways, and for our purposes, THE STORY takes a 70-year break. But God is not done - His story continues.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah continue THE STORY by reversing the removal of the people from the land. They now return. After the 70 years of exile are over, these books record the three returns to the land under the leadership of Zerubbabel (to rebuild the Temple), Ezra, and Nehemiah (to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem). The purpose of these returns is ultimately concerned with preparing for the coming Messiah and the restoration of the kingdom. However, each return also includes the many reforms that the people must make along the way. God is continuing his work.

So note very clearly that THE STORY of the Old Testament ends with the book of Nehemiah. Yes, Nehemiah. It is not that God is done with his people. It is just that God will resume his story with the coming of the Messiah, which occurs in the gospels in the New Testament. The end of the Old Testament is one of anticipation, the anticipation of the good news of the gospel in the coming Messiah.

The prophets add to this anticipation as these books begin to fill in certain details about what God is up to, what he is going to do, and when it is going to happen.

The Old Testament is actually the "first testament" or the prelude to the New Testament. Both testaments contain God's story...



St. Bart's Collective Worship Themes

Autumn 2: Exile to Return and Christmas

Week	Memory verse	Monday Whole school	Tuesday Songs of Worship	Wednesday Lower School in Class Upper School together	Thursday Lower School together Upper School in Class	Friday Class Reflection
	Remember that the Lord your God is the only God and that he is faithful. He will keep his covenant and show his constant love to a thousand generations of those who love him and obey his commands... <i>Deuteronomy 7:9</i>	The STORY so far God's faithfulness to all of His promises		To Assyria Here is a summary of the problems that led to the northern kingdom being taken into exile. In God's discipline, eventually the greater sanctions are needed to bring the people to their senses. <i>2 Kings 17:1-23</i>	To Babylon Now comes the turn of the southern kingdom. They hadn't learned the lesson of what happened to the north and now even the symbol of God's presence was destroyed. <i>2 Kings 25:1-21</i>	Time to review the passages of the week and share prayer needs.
	Because of this everyone on earth will know how great the Lord's power is, and you will honour the Lord your God forever. <i>Jeremiah 29:11</i>	Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are joined in great difficulty <i>Daniel 3</i>		Jeremiah's Letter How should God's people act in exile? God uses Jeremiah to show them how to live in a foreign land and gives them hope for the future. <i>Jeremiah 29:1-14</i>	Ezekiel's Promise God's promise through Ezekiel goes beyond a return home – he will change his people from the inside. <i>Ezekiel 11:14-21</i>	Time to review the passages of the week and share prayer needs.
	How I love your Temple, Lord Almighty! How I want to be there! I long to be in the Lord's Temple. With my whole being I sing for joy to the living God. <i>Psalms 84:1-2</i>	Zerubbabel The return begins. <i>Ezra 1-6</i>		Nehemiah The wall is rebuilt. <i>Nehemiah 3-4</i>	Ezra God's Word is restored. <i>Ezra 7-8, Nehemiah 8</i>	Time to review the passages of the week and share prayer needs.
	I know, Lord, that you are all-powerful; that you can do everything you want. <i>Job 42:2</i>	It's a Job's Life How Job's example helps us in suffering. <i>Job</i>		Isaiah's First Promise God has promised a king to come and save his people. The king would come as a child with a specific plan. Who is this promise about? <i>Isaiah 7:10-17</i> <i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>	Isaiah's Second Promise What kind of king would this child grow into? <i>Isaiah 11:1-9</i> <i>Isaiah 53</i>	Time to review the passages of the week and share prayer needs.



St. Bart's Collective Worship Themes

Autumn 2: Exile to Return and Christmas

	<p>Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Saviour..." <i>Luke 1:46-47</i></p>	<p>The First Advent Mary visits Elizabeth and bursts into song <i>Luke 1:39-56</i></p>		<p>I bring Gold The Magi worship Jesus and bring him precious gifts. Gold signifies his status as king. <i>Matthew 2:11</i></p>	<p>I bring Frankincense The Magi worship Jesus and bring him precious gifts. Frankincense signifies his status as priest. <i>Matthew 2:11</i></p>	<p>Time to review the passages of the week and share prayer needs.</p>
	<p>They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him. <i>Matthew 2:11</i></p>	<p>I bring Myrrh The Magi worship Jesus and bring him precious gifts. Myrrh signifies his status as saviour. <i>Matthew 2:11</i></p>		<p>His name is Jesus Jesus is presented at the temple and recognised for who he is. <i>Luke 2:22-40</i></p>	<p>Christmas Service at Church.</p>	<p>Time to review the passages of the week and share prayer needs.</p>