

Activities:



In a large area play a game of red light/green light. Make the green lights very short and the red lights very long. Ask if children became frustrated over this. Is it frustrating to keep getting interrupted? The Israelites wanted to get something done, but others kept interrupting them. Ask children throughout the story to tell you if the Israelites are facing a red light or a green light.

The Israelites' hearts had fallen asleep. They had forgotten God's teaching and were ignoring their own sins. God used Ezra to wake them up and remember. Turn off the light and have children pretend to sleep. Tap one child on the shoulder to be "Ezra." When the lights come on, Ezra taps a child's shoulder and says, "Wake up and follow God!" Then both children do the same, until all children have woken up.

Show students a mirror. Ask them if what they see looks like them when they look into it. Then, show them their reflection with a spoon. Ask them if it still looks just like them. Explain that we are made in God's image, but because of sin in the world, the image we have of Him is twisted, like in the spoon.

Play a video clip of The Hebrew Slaves Chorus from Nabucco, by Giuseppe Verdi.

UPPER

ELEMENTARY

NAME: _____

Nehemiah, Babylon, Jerusalem, Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes, Ezra,
Scrolls, Rebuild

rsciapsn _____

imarmi _____

Inel _____

eohejbdc _____

smeso _____

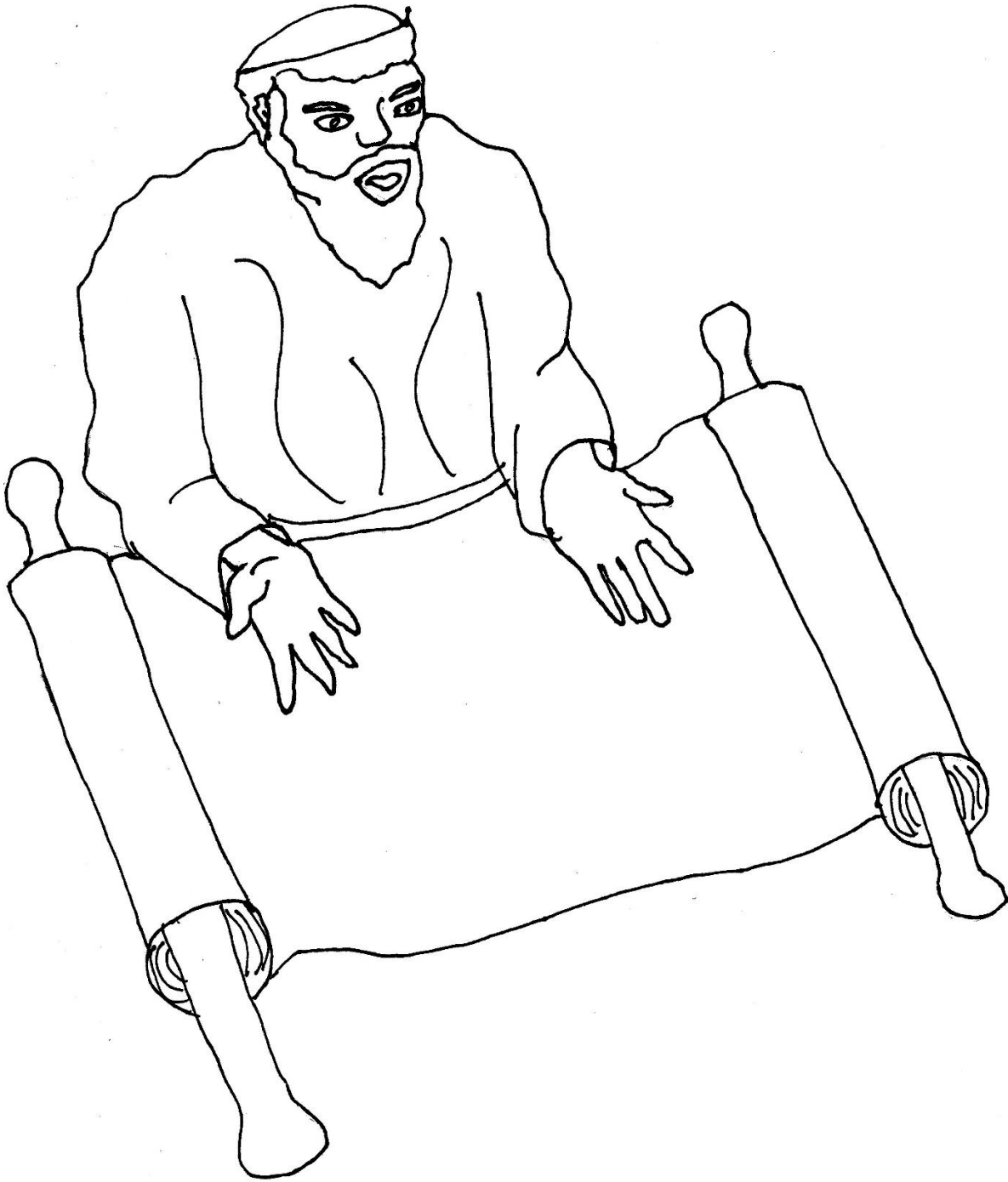
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Lower Elementary

Name: _____

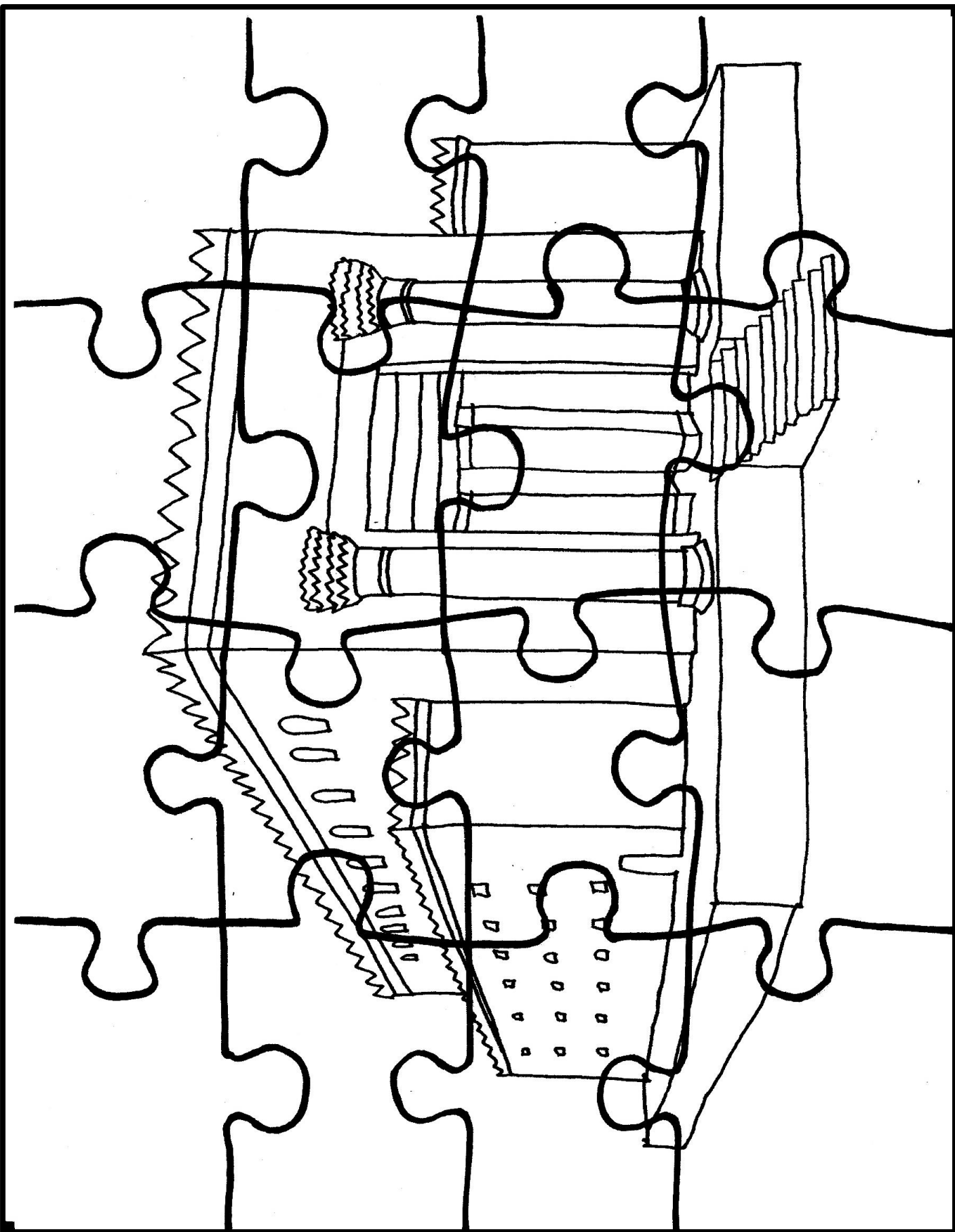


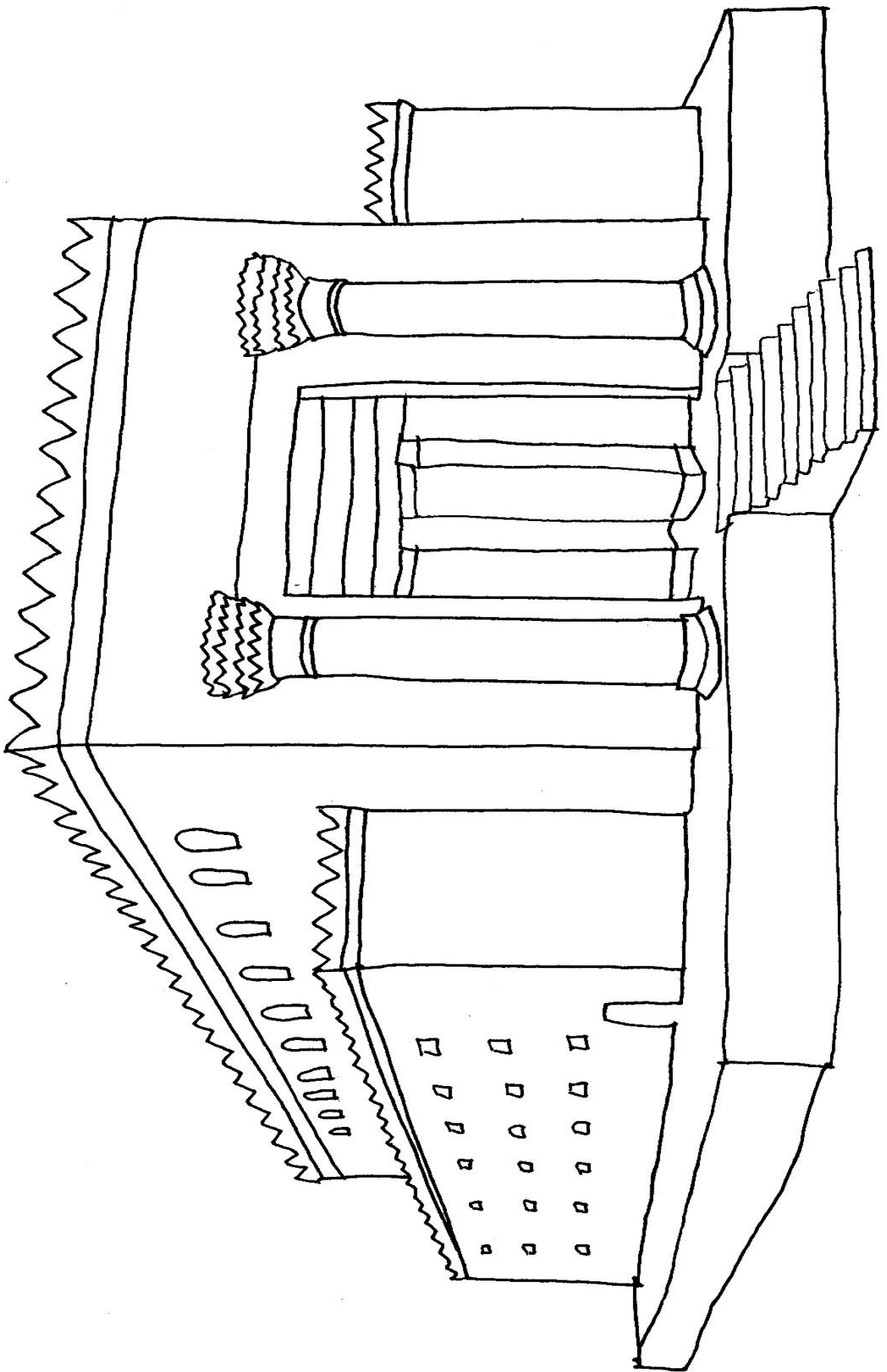
For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, even as I was also fully known.

~ 1 Corinthians 13:12

- ❖ Children can either color the plain temple and draw on their own puzzle lines, or color the temple with the puzzle lines included.
- ❖ Children cut along puzzle lines, and piece back together.
- ❖ If using the plain temple, children may want to swap with a partner to solve each other's puzzles.







Preschool

Coloring Page:

Encourage children to draw themselves in the outline of the child and to color in the temple and heart. Talk about how God is worshipped in our hearts. It is wonderful to have a building to come worship in together, but it can never take the place of having a heart that belongs to God.



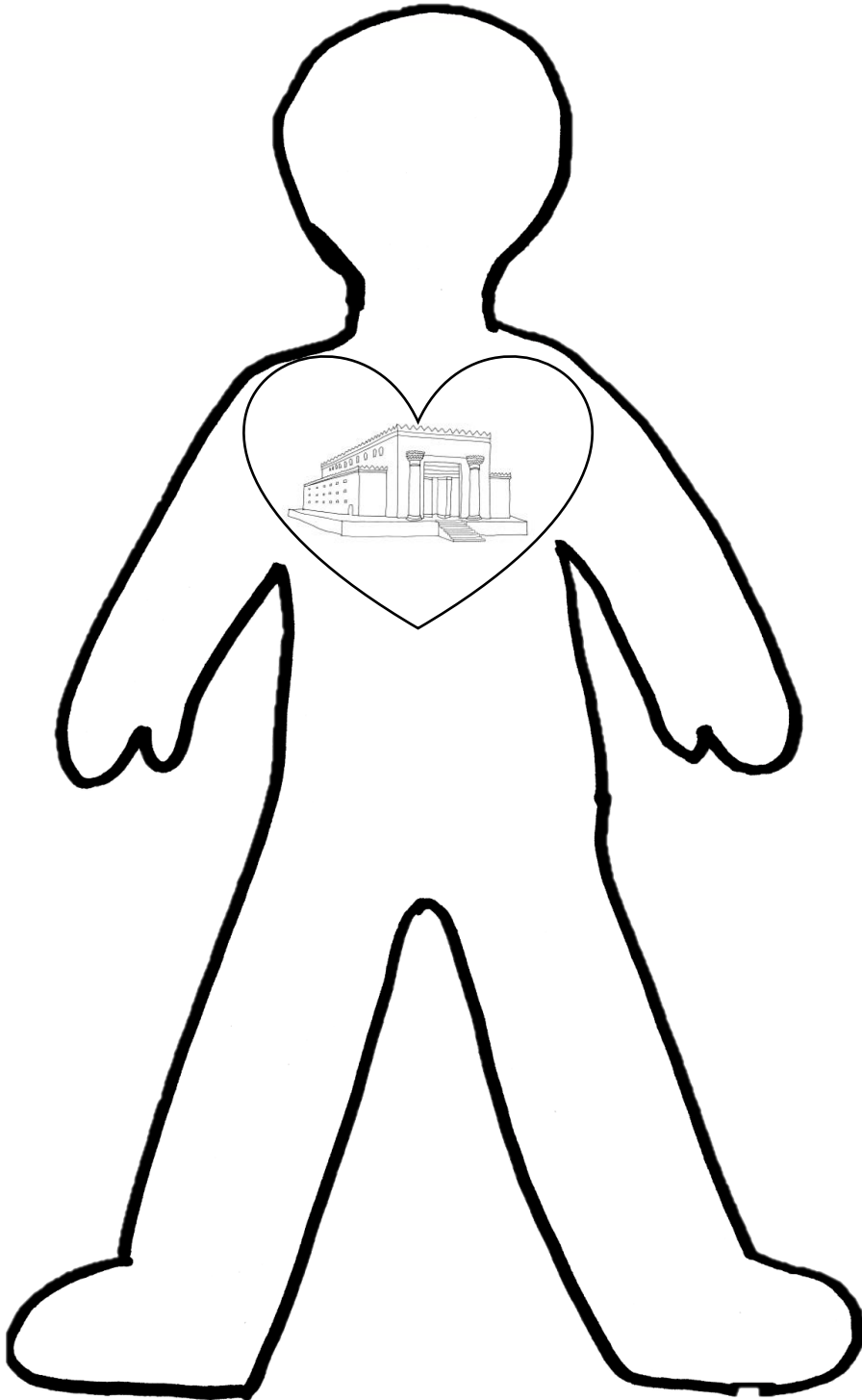
Modeling Dough:

Encourage children to make the temple and a heart. Talk about which one is more important.

Game:

Use blocks to build a temple and place a paper “scroll” inside. After it is built, “destroy” it and let the children re-enact the Israelites returning to Jerusalem and rebuilding the temple.

Name: _____



I worship God in my heart.