

Session 2: Repentance

Suggested Week of Use: June 12, 2022

Core Passage: 1 Kings 8:46-60

**News Story Summary**

On April 15, 2019, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, suffered horrific damage in a 15-hour fire that caused the central frame to collapse. Immediately, plans for the iconic church’s restoration began. However, before that process could get underway, tons of rubble and hazardous materials, such as lead-based dust, had to be removed. This year on April 15, three years after the fire, updates on the progress of the restoration were published in various media outlets. Even with $900 million in donations for the repairs, progress has been slow. The flying buttresses have been repaired. The stained-glass windows, statues, and paintings are under restoration. The next major portion of the project includes rebuilding the cathedral’s framework, roof, and trusses. Officials hope to finish the work by 2024 so the church can be open to the public once again. This would also coincide with Paris playing host to the Summer Olympics.

For more about this story, search “Restoration reports on Notre-Dame Cathedral.”

**Focus Attention**

To replace **FOCUS ATTENTION**, find pictures of Notre Dame Cathedral before and after the fire, especially some interior shots. Display the “Before” picture and ask learners to identify the picture. Then display the “After” pictures and ask them to recall what they know about the fire at the Cathedral. **Say: *On the third anniversary of the fire, April 15, 2022, many updates were given regarding the restoration project.*** Use information from the articles you found to highlight the repairs that have been done and what still needs to be done before the tentative reopening date of 2024. **Ask: *What do you think the re-dedication ceremony will be like? What will be the subject of the prayers at the ceremony?* Say*: In today’s lesson, we will see Solomon at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem and hear his prayer for his people.***

**Summarize and Challenge**

To replace **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, ask learners to reflect on the restoration of Notre Dame and what it will look like when the restoration is complete. **Say: *The cathedral will probably look similar on the outside, but the inside will be clean, fresh, and new.* Ask: *How is this a symbol of repentance?*** *(Answer: We look the same physically, but we have been transformed spiritually on the inside.)* Close with prayer, thanking God for forgiveness and that those who have not accepted Christ will turn to Him in repentance.