



The Most Beautiful Temple



FIRST WITNESSES
An ICF Initiative

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In the small town of Harmonyville, everyone was excited about the new church being built. People painted, planted flowers, and carried bricks. “It’s going to be the most beautiful church in the world!” said a boy named Eli, proudly watching the steeple rise.

One afternoon, Father Mark told the workers, “This church is special, but remember—you are God’s temples. His Spirit lives in you!”

Eli blinked in surprise. *Me? A temple?* He couldn’t stop thinking about it.

That evening, Eli was building a small model church out of blocks when his little sister, Lucy, bumped the table. The church crashed to the floor.

“Lucy! You ruined it!” Eli shouted. Lucy’s eyes filled with tears, and she ran to her room.

Eli sat among the broken pieces, feeling angry—and then Father Mark’s words echoed in his mind: *You are God’s temple.* If God’s Spirit lived in him, he needed to act with love.

He took a deep breath and went to Lucy’s

room. “I’m sorry I yelled,” he said quietly. “You’re more important than any building.” Lucy smiled and gave him a hug. “It’s okay, Eli. Let’s build it again—together!”

That Sunday, sunlight streamed through the church’s new stained-glass windows, filling it with color. Eli thought about how beautiful the building was—but then he remembered what Jesus said: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Eli realized Jesus wasn’t talking about a stone temple—He meant *Himself*, and all of us who carry God’s Spirit within.

Eli whispered a little prayer: “Thank you, God, for living in me. Help me keep your Spirit bright in my heart.”

From that day on, whenever Eli saw the tall church steeple, he smiled. The church was beautiful, but he knew the most beautiful temple of all was already inside him.

Moral: We can admire the beauty of churches and temples, but every person is God’s living temple. The Spirit of God in our hearts makes us more precious than any building ever built.

Based on John 2:13-22.



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