

Solomon Built the Temple

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 6-8

Memory Verse: ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **James 1:5**

Bottom Line: I can make wise decisions because God lives in me.

Big Picture Question: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Christ Connection: The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

Leader Notes:

CONTEXT

When David was king, he wanted to build a temple for God, but God did not allow him to. "When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant ... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Sam. 7:12-13). God said King David's son would build the temple.

King Solomon began to gather materials to build the temple. He ordered cedar and cypress timbers from Lebanon. He gathered 30,000 men from all of Israel as laborers to excavate stone and prepare the timbers for the temple's construction.

The temple was impressive. The entire interior was cedar. King Solomon had everything covered with gold. In all, it took seven years for the temple to be completed. Inside the temple was furniture and accessories. (See 1 Kings 7:48-50.)

The time came to dedicate the temple. All of the Israelites gathered in Jerusalem. The priests brought the ark of the Lord to the most holy place, and a cloud filled the house of the Lord. God's glory filled the temple.

Solomon prayed and praised God for keeping His covenant with David. He recognized that God is not confined to a temple. "Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built" (1 Kings 8:27). Solomon's prayer and speech was followed by a great offering to God.

The temple was where God met with His people, and it gave God's people a more permanent place to worship Him. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Jesus changed everything when He died for our sins on the cross. By taking our sin upon Himself, Jesus made the way for sinners to come to God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

TEACHING FOCUS (1 Kings 6-8)

Solomon was the king of Israel after his father, David, died. God made Solomon very wise. **Solomon began to build a temple for the Lord. Solomon ordered thousands of workers to help build the temple.** They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. **They laid a foundation and built the outside of the temple.**

God blessed the temple and promised Solomon, "If you obey My commands, I will keep the promise I made to David. I will live among the Israelites, and I will not abandon My people."

The temple was built in seven years. It was beautiful! The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with ornamental gourds and flower blossoms. **Solomon overlaid everything inside the temple with pure gold. He hired men to make bronze furnishings for the temple,** such as bronze bowls for holding water.

When the temple was complete, Solomon moved the ark of God from its place on Mount Zion to the new temple in Jerusalem. Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark to the most holy place in the temple, King Solomon and the leaders sacrificed sheep and cattle to the Lord.

When the priests came out of the temple, a cloud filled the temple. God's glory was in the cloud. Solomon turned to speak to the Israelites. "Praise God!" he said. "God promised David that his son would build a temple. God kept His promise!"

Solomon stood and prayed with his hands spread out toward heaven. "There is no God like You!" he said. Then **Solomon thought about the future. He knew Israel would sin and make God angry again; so Solomon asked for forgiveness, and he asked God to hear their prayers.**

When Solomon had finished praying, he encouraged the Israelites to love and obey God. The people returned to their homes, joyful because God was good to them.

Christ Connection: The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and

worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- **God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.**
- *The temple was a place they could gather to worship God and learn about Him.*
- *The Bible teaches us that Christians' bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit!*
- Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go.
- **BL: I can make wise decisions because God lives in me.**

Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

What You Do: Introduce the Story

"King Solomon began building a temple for God. God said to Solomon, "If you obey Me, I will keep My promise to live with my people." Solomon used many workers to build the temple, and they did a good job. It took seven years to build the temple, and it was beautiful. When it was time to bring the ark of God into the temple, the people praised God. Solomon, said, "There is no one like You, God. When we pray to You and bring gifts to You, hear and forgive us." Solomon told the people, "Love God and obey Him with your whole heart."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Building with blocks

What You Need: soft blocks

What You Do:

- Invite toddler's to help you build something that looks like a church/temple.
- Talk about the Bible story as you are building using the above notes.

What You Say " Solomon built a temple for God. Solomon told the people to love God with all their heart. God know everything. Because of Jesus, we can worship God everywhere.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5

What You Say " Did you know you could ask God for wisdom just like Solomon did? It's true! You don't have to wait for God to speak to you in a dream. Our memory verse says that anyone can ask God for wisdom! Let's pray and ask God to show us where we need wisdom."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- **Pray:** “Lord, we praise You for Your knowledge, wisdom and power. WE praise you because You love us despite our sinfulness. Help us to have wisdom and see that we need Jesus. Give us faith to trust Him. Use us in Your plan to reach the whole world with the gospel. Amen.
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall. Send home the coloring page.