

# Solomon Built the Temple

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 6-8

**Memory Verse:** <sup>5</sup> 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.**

### Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and small group leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

#### Pay Attention:

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Tell kids to watch you and copy your action, and then ask them to close their eyes.
- Silently perform a motion while the children have their eyes closed.
- Invite kids to open their eyes and ask if they know what to do.
- Invite kids them to keep their eyes open while you perform the motion again and let the kids mimic you.
- Repeat, or invite kids to cover their ears while you whisper the big picture question, "What does God know? then uncover their ears to hear and respond to the question. "He know everything past, present and future."

**What You Say:** "Was it easier to know what to do when your eyes were open or closed? (Be mindful of kids with hearing or sight differences) Open, of course! We can learn a lot when we are watching and listening. But some people do not want to listen and learn! It is like they are living with their eyes and ears closed. God has so much He wants to teach us today in our Bible Story. I hope you will listen and watch closely.

#### Worship

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."

### Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kid's hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

#### Bible Story

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Place a book mark in 1 Kings 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

**What You Say:** How do we know the Bible is true? Because it is God's Word! Today's true Bible story is found in the Book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

#### PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

#### Talk about the Bible 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."

### Learn the Big Picture Question

**What You Say:** I am sure you do not know how to cut a stone, carve flowers into wood, or build bronze furniture. Do you? But God helped the people build Him a temple because God knows how to do everything!  
**What does God know? God knows everything!**

### Practice the Memory Verse:

Open your Bible to James 1:5 Read the memory verse aloud several times.

**What You Say:** "God gave Solomon wisdom to build the temple, and He gave us wisdom to remember this verse. God may ask you to do something really hard for Him someday, like building a place to honor Him, but you can ask for His help then, too!

## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leaders.

### 1. Make patterns

**What You Need:** Temple Template printable for each kid, construction paper, glue sticks, crayons

#### What You Do:

- Invite toddlers to glue the pictures to the temple outline.
- Talk about the story as written above while the kids "build" their temple.

**What You Say** " Solomon built a temple for God just the way God told him to. God knows everything. The inside of the temple was beautiful. Palm trees, flowers, and other items decorated the temple.

### 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 kids 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:** no supplies needed

#### 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.