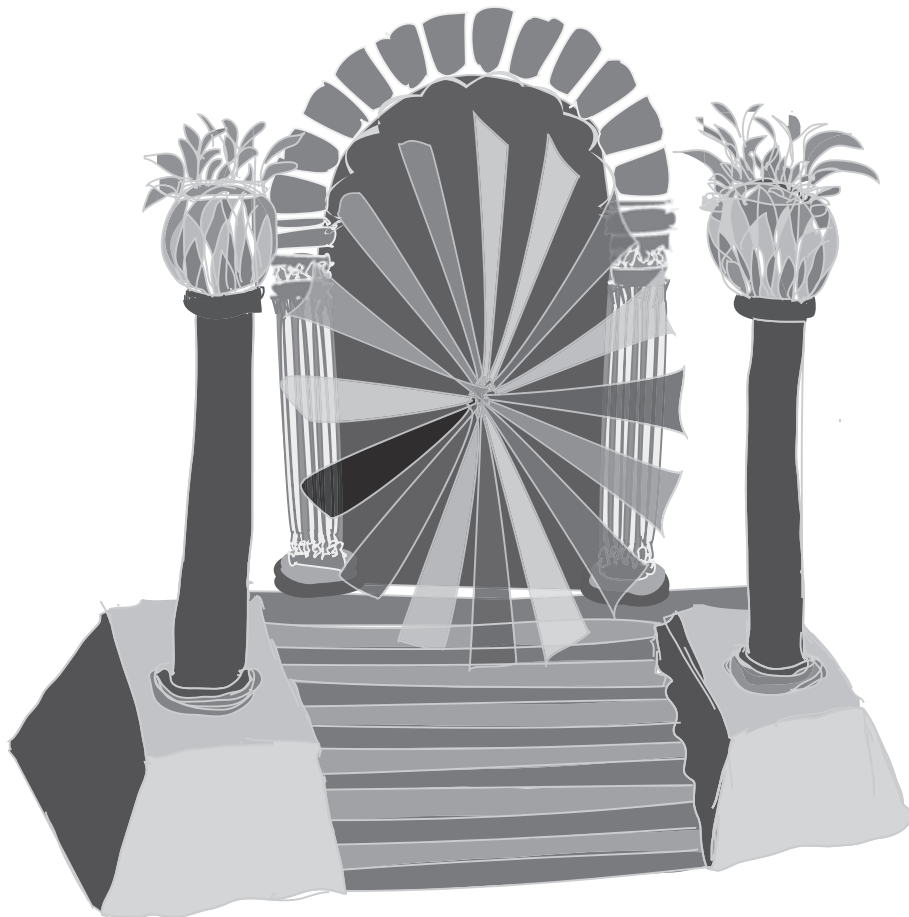


LESSON 60

Solomon & the Temple of God

1 CHRONICLES 28 – 29; 2 CHRONICLES 7



BIBLE TRUTH

NOW THAT PEACE HAS COME TO ISRAEL,
SOLOMON BUILDS A HOUSE FOR GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Chronicles 7 from the Scriptures or read story 60, “Solomon and the Temple of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Guess the Weight
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ digital postal or kitchen scale
 - ✓ fifteen to twenty everyday items to be weighed on the scale
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
That’s a Lot of Sheep and Oxen
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large clock (analog with a second hand or a large digital readout that shows seconds)
 - ✓ piece of purple cotton cloth
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 60—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Construction Supplies
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ gold jewelry
 - ✓ silver jewelry
 - ✓ something bronze
 - ✓ a piece of wood
 - ✓ iron bar or angle
 - ✓ a piece of jewelry with precious stones

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The Lord’s temple, a place of rest— Unlike the tabernacle, the temple represented a permanent home for God’s ark, the altar, and the other furnishings God originally directed Moses to build. This means the temple was to be “a house of rest,” a symbol of God dwelling with his people in peace and rest. But David was a man of war. That was why God did not allow David to build his temple. God ordered his temple to be built by David’s son Solomon, a “man of rest.”

God did give David the plans for the construction of the temple and allowed him to participate by collecting the raw materials for its construction.

David took up an offering for the temple— David led the people to give generously for the temple construction. They knew that everything they had came from God and were happy to give these riches back to God, confident that he would continue to be faithful to supply their needs.

The glory of the Lord filled the temple— It took Solomon seven years to build the temple. The final building was magnificent. Yet, no matter how great its beauty, all the work would have been meaningless if God did not fill the temple with his presence. The good news, of course, is that God did fill the temple, and all the people bowed down when they saw fire from heaven consume the burnt offering and fall upon the temple. The dedication of the temple included the sacrifice of a staggering number of animals. But no matter how many animals the people of Israel sacrificed, none of them could truly take away their sins. They all pointed forward to Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16–17.

Solomon was commissioned by God to build the temple. The temple would be the place where God's presence would dwell. All of worship would revolve around the temple. This temple was only a shadow of another temple, our hearts. Paul draws the connection in 1 Corinthians 3:16–17: "Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple."

The temple of Solomon would be filled with the presence of God. Now as believers, we are also filled with the Spirit of Christ.

Solomon was chosen by God to build the temple because he was a man of peace (1 Chronicles 22:9–10). David was not permitted to build God's house because he was a man of war. One day the king would come who would reign on the throne of Solomon forever. This king, Jesus, would build God a house—the church. Of the increase of his peace there would be no end (Isaiah 9:7). God chose Solomon, a man of peace, to point forward to the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Chronicles 7 from the Scriptures or read story 60, "Solomon and the Temple of God," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Guess the Weight

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ digital postal or kitchen scale
- ✓ fifteen to twenty everyday items to be weighed on the scale

The object of this lesson is to show the majesty of God in the detailed instructions he gave to David for building the temple.

Divide the class into four teams. Explain how the scale works, and tell the children they are going to compete to see who can guess the correct weight of each object to an ounce.

Use one object as an example. Then pass around the first object. Tell everyone to get a feel for it and guess in their mind how much it weighs. Then have them talk as a team to come up with their final answer. Take turns asking different teams to go first. The team with the closest guess to the actual weight gets a point. Do as many objects as you think you have time for, and then declare a winner and move to the questions.

Then ask the class the following questions:

Read 1 Chronicles 28:11–19. How did David know all the weights of gold it would take to make the various objects in the temple?

(God gave David all the detailed measurements and details [1 Chronicles 28:19].)

How did God know how much gold and silver it would take?

(God knows everything because 1 Chronicles 28:9 tells us that “the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought.”)

Does the Lord still search our hearts?

(Yes, the Lord still searches our hearts and knows all our motivations and secret sins. That is why we should fear the Lord when we are about to do something wrong. We cannot hide sin from God. The good news is that Jesus forgives our sins if we place our faith in him and live for him.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

That's a Lot of Sheep and Oxen

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large clock (analog with a second hand or a large digital readout that shows seconds)
- ✓ piece of purple cotton cloth

Make a one-half-inch cut near the middle of one side of the purple cotton cloth to allow for easy tearing.

This exercise is to help the children understand the enormity of the sacrifices made at the dedication of the temple.

If one hundred priests killed an animal every minute, it would take them twenty-four hours to kill all the animals without any rest.

Hold up the clock and tell your class that they are the priests appointed to offer the sacrifices at the temple. Tell them to pound their fist on the table and to do so every second. (You might want to direct them like a conductor.) At your signal, have them begin. Let them continue for three minutes. At the end of three minutes, if you have twenty students, they would have only struck the table thirty-six hundred times. To make the required number of sacrifices, at the same pace, they would need to pound every second for two hours straight!

Now, compare this to Jesus' sacrifice. Have one child pound the table once, and say, "It is finished." Then pick up the cotton cloth and rip it.

Then ask the class the following questions:

How did Jesus' one sacrifice compare with those offered at the dedication of the temple?

(Even though there were 142,000 animals offered at the dedication of the temple, Jesus' one sacrifice is greater.)

Why did God tear the temple curtain in two after the death of Jesus (Matthew 27:51)?

(Jesus' one sacrifice was eternally effective—that is, it was good once and for all [Hebrews 9:12]!)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 60—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Who would you rather be, David or Solomon, and why?

(Accept any answer.)

Why do you think the articles in the temple were made of gold?

(Gold is considered the most precious metal. God is deserving of the richest of what the earth can provide.)

Read about the gold items for the temple in 1 Chronicles 28:15–18. Have the children do their best to draw one of the items on their coloring sheet, and color it yellow or gold.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Construction Supplies

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ gold jewelry
- ✓ silver jewelry
- ✓ something bronze
- ✓ a piece of wood
- ✓ iron bar or angle
- ✓ a piece of jewelry with precious stones

Talk to the class about how King David led by example through his generous giving for the construction of the temple. Then read 1 Chronicles 29:1–7. As you read about each item, pass around the item you brought in made of that building material.

To put the weights into perspective, tell the class that an elephant weighs nine thousand pounds. So King David and the people of God gave the equivalent of 66 elephant weights of gold and 138 elephant weights of silver for building the temple.

LESSON 60 - SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE OF GOD

