



**Growing
in CHRISt®**

Middle School Teacher Guide

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

God Works through Prophets and Kings

OLD TESTAMENT 4



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3558 S. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • cph.org

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Introduction

This Middle School level provides resources for teaching sixth through eighth graders.

Teacher Guide Features

- **Preparing the Lesson pages** give you background and theological information.
- **Four-step lessons** make preparation and teaching easy and effective.
- **Activity-based openings and activities** draw youth into the Scripture and topics.
- **Small-group/large-group activity options** dig into God's Word and share faith. Do activities in ways that make the most sense for your group.
- **YouTube videos** encourage critical thinking and discernment.
- **We Live activities** help young people identify personal life applications.
- **Liturgy Links** connect young people to the worship life of the Church.
- **Perforated pages** make team teaching or small groups/large groups easier.

Teacher Tools Packet Contents

- **Timeline Poster and teaching posters** provide historical perspective and context.
- **Middle School Puzzle Book** teaches Bible verses (reproducible).
- **Bible Review Cards** work for review games in extra time or as people arrive.
- **Teacher CD** has hymns, select Bible Words/catechism songs, and printable lyrics.

Student Pack Essentials

Student Packs feature thirteen **Folios** and a **Bible Exploration Guide** with expanded cultural and biblical insights. Students look up and read the primary Scripture each week. Extra verses are usually printed on the Folio to make it easier to use and discuss.

Your Role as Teacher

As a teacher, you challenge, coach, encourage creativity and curiosity, and nurture students' faith in Jesus. Building positive relationships with and between youth is very important. Get to know your students and their families.

Young people may feel wary of trying new things, fearing embarrassment. Provide a safe space for everyone to participate by not allowing put-downs, hurtful jokes, name-calling, or other improper suggestions. Model the behavior you want from students by participating yourself and enthusiastically introducing activities. Each time students participate, trust builds. Trust makes students more willing to read aloud, do activities, participate in small groups, pray together, and share opinions and feelings.

Make your classroom a place where students can talk openly. To foster trust, remind students to respect one another's privacy. Say you will not share their stories outside of class. However, if a student shares something potentially dangerous to him- or herself or others, you have the responsibility to bring it to your pastor for guidance.

Other Supplies

Before class, do the tasks in the "Get Ready" section. Collect "Materials Needed." This list always includes Bibles and YouTube videos. Many lessons use newsprint, markers, and masking tape. A few additional materials are used from time to time.

Find additional teaching helps, including curriculum updates, training, links to podcasts, and other resources, at our Sunday School website, cph.org/sundayschool.

YouTube Resources for Old Testament 4

Go to the CPH Youth Sunday School Resources page at bit.ly/1knXwnU. Choose "Old Testament 4 Middle School Playlist" and then click "View full playlist." Click the name of the video to play it. View or skip ads and cue the video. Channels may block or hinder play if you do not watch the ads.

YouTube settings change often. **If a video is not available, go to cph.org/sundayschool and click "Sunday School Tools" on the main page. Click "Curriculum Updates" for another option.**

Lesson 1: The Wisdom of Solomon

"Jeffrey Wright Changing Lives by Finding Your Spark | Office Depot," Office Depot Inc. channel (3:45; stop 3:33)

Lesson 2: Solomon Builds the Temple

"Solomon's Temple," Seth Michael Channel (2:06)

Lesson 3: God Provides for Elijah

"This Little Girl's Dad Lies to Her Every Day, When I Found Out Why, It Broke My Heart," Bibly channel (3:27)

Lesson 4: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

"Roundtable Rival - Lindsey Stirling," Lindsey Stirling channel (3:39)

Lesson 5: Elijah Is Taken to Heaven

"These teachers tell their students why they're an inspiration to them," Upworthy channel (6:32; watch 2 minutes or more)

Lesson 6: Naaman and Elisha

"What is leprosy?" Lepra channel (1:17)

Lesson 7: Jonah

"Do You Believe in Miracles? | Street Spirituality," National Geographic channel (2:55)

Lesson 8: Hezekiah Prays

"Lord's Prayer ASL," Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society channel (1:21)

Lesson 9: Jeremiah and God's New Covenant

"He works with L.A. gangs to teach them how to de-escalate violence," Upworthy channel (1:51)

Lesson 10: The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace

"0-100 | How Would You Change the World?" SoulPancake channel (2:53)

Lesson 11: Daniel in the Lions' Den

"Copying and Pasting Money Vine," Zach King channel (0:16)

Lesson 12: God's People Go Home

"what is home?" MVA Films channel (1:44)

Lesson 13: Esther

"1953. Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II: 'The Crowning Ceremony,'" pedrcymro29 channel (4:28; stop 3:30)

Preparing the Lesson

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

Date of Use

Key Point

Solomon, though wise, needed what we and all sinners need: Christ, Wisdom Himself, and the forgiveness He brings.

Law/Gospel

The fear of the Lord—reverence for God and trust in Him—is the beginning of wisdom, yet, in my sin, I am unwise, failing to trust in the Lord above all things. **Jesus, Wisdom personified, gives to me and all who believe in Him a share of His wisdom, that is, Himself.**

Context

Solomon, the second child of David and Bathsheba, was Israel's third king. A "little child" when he assumed the throne (1 Kings 3:7), he reigned forty years (tenth century BC). Right after becoming king, he settled some old political scores from his father's reign (2:13–46); then "the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon" (v. 46).

The nation expanded its borders, there was money galore, the temple was built, and Israel was relatively at peace with its neighbors. But not all was well. Solomon, though "he was wiser than all other men" (4:31), foolishly overtaxed and overworked his citizens and contracted alliances with Gentile nations. Worst of all, his pagan wives "turned away his heart after other gods" so that he "did what was evil in the sight of the LORD" (11:4, 6). As a result, after his death the nation split into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

Commentary

Wisdom has little to do with a person's IQ. There are high school dropouts with more true wisdom than the Ivy League intelligentsia. How can this be? Wisdom is not a human achievement but a divine endowment; it is received, not achieved. Wisdom is keeping one's thoughts, deeds, and

words in sync with the divine will in all matters of life. The wise look down from heaven to earth; that is, they see life through God's eyes. And this they do by having a listening heart.

Young Solomon prayed for an "understanding mind" (3:9), which in the Hebrew is literally a "listening heart." And what do the ears of the heart listen for? The voice of wisdom—that is, the voice of Christ Himself—verbalizing His will and ways through the Sacred Scriptures.

Moses preached that when Israel was given a king, the king was to "write for himself in a book a copy of this law" (Deuteronomy 17:18). This Scripture was to "be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God" (v. 19). The divine Word creates the fear of the Lord, which in turn is the beginning of wisdom. And that Word is heard only by those to whom Christ has given a listening heart.

Sadly, even those with such a heart also heed other voices, as did Solomon—voices of lust or greed or malice, voices that lead astray even the wisest of men. This king who so wisely decided the case of the two prostitutes would himself go whoring after other gods in his twilight years (1 Kings 11:4).

Solomon, though a wise man, needed what all sinners need: Christ, Wisdom Himself, and the forgiveness He brings. This One who is greater than Solomon gives us more than a listening heart—He gives us His own heart, pulsating with love and absolution that knows no bounds.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 1

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

Connections

Bible Words

Christ [is] the power of God
and the wisdom of God.
1 Corinthians 1:24

Catechism

Asking a Blessing: Verse
Track 18

Hymn

"You Are the Way; through You
Alone"
LSB 526, Track 7

Get Ready

Before class: Get supplies. Hang the Timeline Poster and Posters B, C, and D in your space. Posters B–D are used in select lessons but provide important context for other lessons. Print lyrics sheets from Teacher CD if you use them. Find Catechism song lyrics on page 4 of the Folios.

Opening: Preview Lesson 1 YouTube video in the Old Testament 4 Middle School Playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU. Skip ads; cue video.

We Live: Copy Bible Words Puzzle 1.

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Wisdom or Knowledge

Ask What do you do if you want to learn something? Answers might include reading a book, watching a video, or asking someone to show you.

What do you do if you want to become wise about something? Answers might include discernment, reflection, and application.

What's the difference between knowledge and wisdom? *Knowledge* acquires facts and ideas through study, investigation, and experience. It answers who, what, where, and when questions. *Wisdom* discerns and judges the truth of knowledge and applies it to your life. It answers why questions and defines meaning or reasons.

If you do not use the video, continue with the next "Say" statement.

Say This video shows a teacher who offers knowledge and wisdom to his students. Find evidence of both.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening	2 God Speaks	3 We Live	4 Closing
Other Supplies YouTube video; tablet, computer, or screen; Internet connection	Teacher Tools Timeline Poster, Posters B, C, D Student Pack Lesson 1 Folios Other Supplies Bibles Newsprint, markers, masking tape	Teacher Tools Bible Words Puzzle 1 copies Student Pack Lesson 1 Folios Bible Exploration Guides Other Supplies Pens or pencils	Teacher Tools (optional) Lesson 1 Bible Review Cards Teacher CD Lyrics sheets, Teacher CD Student Pack Lesson 1 Folios (optional)

Show the Lesson 1 YouTube video, “Jeffrey Wright Changing Lives by Finding Your Spark | Office Depot” (3:45; stop 3:33), in the Old Testament 4 Middle School Playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU. If you’re interested, find out more about Mr. Wright, his family, and his faith in other online videos and articles.

Ask **What knowledge did Mr. Wright want his students to know?** Laws of physics, scientific information

What wisdom did he want them to acquire? Everybody has a spark. You have to give back to other people to make the world a little bit brighter. Life has to be based on something much deeper than laws—our love for each other. Genuinely care for people.

What did you notice about Mr. Wright’s family at the beginning of the video? He’s married with a teenage daughter and son. His son is in a wheelchair, afflicted with a rare disease that prevents him from speaking, walking, or controlling his body. He is a bright, intelligent young man.

How did Mr. Wright say experience with his son gave him wisdom? Adam helped him see that our lives have purpose: to love and care for one another. Help students know that other sources identify Mr. Wright as a Christian who points to God as the origin of that love. Wisdom is a gift from God; indeed, Christ is the Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24).

Say Today, we learn about a wise man from the Bible.

Pray Heavenly Father, thank You for intellect to invent, create, cure, and lead. Thank You for Your Word, where we learn about Your love and real wisdom through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Key Point

Solomon, though wise, needed what we and all sinners need: Christ, Wisdom Himself, and the forgiveness He brings.

2 God Speaks (32 minutes)

Wisdom, a Gift from God

Show the Timeline Poster and Poster D to show historical context.

Hand out Bibles and Lesson 1 Folios.

Divide into groups of two to five people. Assign Part One or Two to each group. If you prefer to stay in one group, do both parts together.

Read directions from Folio page 2: **Read your assigned Scripture. Discuss questions. Follow directions.** Part One groups illustrate what Solomon asked for and what he could have requested. Part Two groups list how Solomon’s wisdom made him different, the gifts God gave him, and Solomon’s response.

Point out newsprint and markers. Give students fifteen minutes to work. As they do, help as needed and review questions for Debriefing.

PART ONE: Solomon’s Prayer, 1 Kings 3:1–9

What did Solomon build in Jerusalem (vv. 1–2)? A house for himself, the wall around Jerusalem, the house of the Lord (temple)

Describe Solomon’s relationship with the Lord (vv. 3–4). He loved the Lord and made many offerings to Him.

The Bible usually identifies “high places” as altars to worship idols, but the tabernacle of the Lord was in the high place called Gibeon (v. 4; 2 Chronicles 1:3–4). **What happened to Solomon there** (v. 5)? The Lord

*Digs into
God’s Word*

Pronunciations

Gibeon: GIB ee un

Israel: IS ray ell

Pharaoh: FAIR oh

Solomon: SAHL uh mun

Key Point

Solomon, though wise,
needed what we and
all sinners need: Christ,
Wisdom Himself, and
the forgiveness He
brings.

appeared to him in a dream and said He would give Solomon anything he asked to receive.

Solomon was about twenty years old when he became king. What do you think he worried about when he became king? Answers vary. Solomon worried about his youth (v. 7). He may have worried about following his famous father or not being respected because he was young.

In the middle of your newsprint, write or draw what Solomon asked God to give him (v. 9). Around this, list or draw images of all the things Solomon could have requested. Solomon asked for “an understanding mind to govern” and to be able to “discern between good and evil.” He could have asked for wealth, worldly goods, popularity, peace, and so on.

PART TWO: God’s Answer, 1 Kings 3:10–15

How did God respond to Solomon’s request (v. 10)? He was pleased.

What three things did God say Solomon could have requested (v. 11)? Long life, riches, and death to his enemies.

On newsprint, list or draw how Solomon’s wisdom made him different (v. 12). No one before or after him would be as wise.

Then list or draw other gifts God gave Solomon (vv. 13–14). Riches, honor, and long life—everything!

At this time, the tabernacle of the Lord and bronze altar for sacrifices were in Gibeon, but David had taken the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem many years before (2 Chronicles 1:3–5). Why did Solomon return to Jerusalem (v. 15)? Write or draw what Solomon did in Jerusalem. He went to Jerusalem to worship God and to present offerings to the Lord because he loved the Lord and wanted to please Him. The ark of the covenant was where God’s presence dwelled.

Debriefing

When time elapses, bring students back together and hang up newsprints. Ask each group to tell about what they wrote or drew.

Say Scripture shows Solomon using his God-given wisdom.

Read **1 Kings 3:16–28** aloud. Then discuss these questions (not on Folio).

Ask How did Solomon know what the real mother would say? Solomon used his God-given wisdom to know **that** the real mother would never want her child to be harmed.

What did the people of Israel see in Solomon after this decision (v. 28)? “The wisdom of God was in him to do justice.” Help students know that kings often decided disputes we usually assign to judges.

*Builds
Relationships*

3 We Live (15 minutes)

Wisdom in God’s Word

Continue using page 3 of Folio, which has Bible verses but not questions.

Say King Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs. Let’s read Proverbs 1:7 aloud together.

There are many different kinds of fear. What do you think “the fear of the Lord” means? Help students know that to “fear the Lord” means to understand that the Lord is the powerful Creator of the universe. He is who He says He is. We honor, respect, and reverence His power and authority; recognize our smallness; and yield to His control.

It’s remarkable that this powerful God would love us and care for each of us personally, that He would send His own Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins on the cross and buy us back from our slavery to sin.

God invites us to come to Him, so we don’t fear approaching Him as a child approaches a loving parent, but we respect who He is and what He can do.

Think about Bible people and situations. When have people demonstrated this fear of the Lord? Help students cite examples: Peter fell down and acknowledged his sin when Jesus gave a great catch of fish (Luke 5:8); the disciples fell on their faces at Jesus’ transfiguration (Matthew 17:6); the disciples felt awe when Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:41); Moses hid his face from God in the burning bush (Exodus 3:6); unclean spirits fell down before Jesus and acknowledged His deity (Mark 3:11).

Ask volunteers to read aloud the other three verses on Folio page 3 (**1 Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 3:16; and James 1:5**). After each, ask students to say what the verse says about wisdom. Help students understand that Jesus is God’s Wisdom; the Bible (Word of Christ) gives wisdom; and God gives wisdom to those who ask.

As time permits, let students choose to do Bible Words Puzzle 1 or read “The Days of Israelite Kings and Prophets” and “Solomon, Man of God” in the Bible Exploration Guide (pp. 3–5).

After a few minutes, ask those who did the puzzle to read aloud **1 Corinthians 1:24**: “Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God.” Ask Bible Exploration Guide readers to share what they learned.

**Goes to
the Heart**

Faith in Action

Encourage students to make the wisdom of God’s Word part of their daily lives. Encourage personal and family devotions. Copy a daily Bible reading plan and get students to agree to use it for a week. (*The Lutheran Study Bible* lists lectionaries and reading plans in its front section.) Text, post, or send daily Scripture verses to individuals or group social-media accounts.

4 Closing (3 minutes)

Ask What wisdom did you see in God’s Word today? Thank responders.

Or review the lesson using the Lesson 1 Bible Review Cards.

As a closing prayer, read or sing “You Are the Way; through You Alone” (CD Track 7; *LSB* 526; lyrics on CD) or read or sing “Asking a Blessing: Verse” (CD Track 18; Folio, p. 4). If you use the latter, say, **Luther’s Small Catechism teaches us to say this verse as part of a prayer before a meal to remember God gives all good gifts, including wisdom! Next week, we will learn the prayer that goes with it.**

Preparing the Lesson

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5–6

Date of Use

Key Point

Though God resided within the Old Testament temple, He was hidden behind the veil in the Most Holy Place. Jesus is the unveiled Most Holy Place, accessible to all, enfolding believers in the arms of His Word and Sacraments.

Law/Gospel

In my sin, I want to keep God at a distance; I don't want Him to see who I really am. **God, in His love, draws me near to Him through His Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh. He tabernacles (dwells) with me and all believers through Word and Sacrament, forgiving my sin.**

Context

David desired to build a "house of cedar" for God, to replace the tent in which his Lord had been residing (2 Samuel 7). But the Lord declared that Solomon would be the one to build such a house. Work on the temple was begun 480 years after Israel left Egypt, around 967 BC (1 Kings 6:1), and was completed seven years later (v. 38). It consisted of two main parts: the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) and the Holy Place. It was a sight so dazzlingly beautiful that it was deemed an "exalted house" for the King of kings (8:13). Yet it was only temporary. The Babylonians destroyed it in 587 BC.

Commentary

In his prayer at the dedication of the temple, Solomon asked, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!" (8:27). The purpose of the temple was not to put a structural straitjacket on God. He would remain omnipresent, but at the temple, He would be omni-accessible, as it were. One might say there is a continuum of God's presence in the Old Testament.

At one end, He is "most present" in a theophany, or visible manifestation (as at Sinai; see Exodus 20). At the other end, He is "least present" in that He is everywhere. Between these two extremes lies His presence in the temple. He is more readily accessible there, and more constantly present in an explicit manner, than in the rest of creation.

The temple was God's earthly palace. Most important for Israel, it was also a hospital of sorts. Those sick with sin or ill with uncleanness would come there to be healed by their Doctor. His medicine was the sacrificial blood of animals, the benedictions of priests, the oil of anointing, the incense of prayers, the hymns of the Levitical choirs. The divine Word was in, with, and under each of these, working healing for those impaired in body or soul.

But, gift of God though it was, the temple was too little, too early. It was too little because something greater than the temple was still needed. And it was too early, for on the horizon was a new and better temple in which God would be even more present than in the sanctuary of old.

"Will God indeed dwell on the earth?" Solomon asks. "Yes," we respond, as we gaze at the swaddled infant lying in the manger. For Jesus is our sanctuary—not merely the place in which God dwells, but God Himself dwelling as a flesh-and-blood man. Though God resided within the Old Testament temple, He was hidden behind the veil in the Most Holy Place. But not Jesus. He is our unveiled, human Most Holy Place, truly accessible to all, enfolding us in the arms of His Word and Sacraments.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Lesson 2

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5–6

Connections

Bible Words

All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.
Psalm 86:9–10

Catechism

Asking a Blessing: Prayer
Track 19

Hymn

"God Himself Is Present,"
LSB 907, Track 2

Get Ready

Before class: Get supplies.

Opening: Preview Lesson 2 YouTube video in the Old Testament 4 Middle School Playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU. Skip ads; cue video.

We Live: Copy Bible Words Puzzle 2.

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Temples

Ask What do you think of when you hear the word *temple*? Accept all responses. Students might think of Mormon or Buddhist temples or share Bible verses or topics you studied previously.

Say Today, we explore when God told King Solomon to build a temple for Him, replacing the tabernacle the Israelites had built in the wilderness.

King David wanted to build this temple, but through His prophet Nathan, God said his descendant would build the temple instead.

If you do not use the video, ask students to share what they remember about the tabernacle. For example, *tabernacle* means "dwelling." There, in the ark of the covenant, God dwelt with His people. After leaving Egypt, God told the Israelites to build the tabernacle and place it in the middle of their tents. The Lord communicated to Moses and Aaron from it.

Say This video tells us about the temple Solomon, David's son, built.

Introduce and show the Lesson 2 YouTube video, "Solomon's Temple" (2:06),

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening

Other Supplies

YouTube video; tablet, computer, or screen; Internet connection

2 God Speaks

Teacher Tools

Timeline Poster, Posters B, D

Student Pack

Lesson 2 Folios

Other Supplies

Bibles
Newsprint, markers, masking tape
Yardstick or tape measure

3 We Live

Teacher Tools

Bible Words Puzzle 2 copies

Student Pack

Lesson 2 Folios
Bible Exploration Guides

Other Supplies

Pens or pencils

4 Closing

Teacher Tools (optional)

Lesson 2 Bible Review Cards
Teacher CD
Lyrics sheets, Teacher CD

in the Old Testament 4 Middle School Playlist at bit.ly/1knXwnU.

Ask How long did it take to build this temple? Seven years

What impressed you most about the temple? Answers vary and might include the gold, furnishings, or grandeur.

Pray Lord, thank You for giving us a sure foundation in Jesus Christ, our Savior. On His love and sacrifice, You build our faith. Draw us near to You through Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

2 God Speaks (32 minutes)

Building God's House

Ask What kinds of planning would you need to do if you were building something as big as Solomon's temple? Let students discuss steps, such as making the "blueprint," getting materials; recruiting craftsmen; coordinating materials, time, and craftsmen; and so on. Help them think about what steps would happen first, such as preparing the ground and laying the foundation, and what would happen later, such as installing doors and curtains.

What kinds of materials would you need? Let students share their ideas.

Say A cubit is an ancient form of measurement based on the length of a forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger, usually about 18 inches or 45 centimeters, depending on the person. When King Solomon built the temple, they used cubits as their measurement.

Use the yardstick to measure a cubit using several students' arms.

Show the Timeline Poster and Poster D to show historical context.

Hand out Bibles and Lesson 2 Folios.

Divide into groups of two to five people. Assign Part One or Two to each group. If you prefer to stay in one group, do both parts together.

Read directions from Folio page 2: **Read assigned verses. Discuss questions. Follow directions.** Part One groups write a work order. Part Two groups write a description of the temple.

Point out newsprint and markers. Give students twenty minutes to work. As they do, help as needed, and review questions for Debriefing.

PART ONE: Preparation, 1 Kings 5

Solomon's request, verses 1–6

- **Why did Solomon say his father, David, didn't get to build God's temple?** Solomon said that David was always surrounded by enemies and at war. God also told David he could not build the temple because he was a "man of war" (1 Chronicles 28:3). He wanted a man of peace to build it.
- **Why did Solomon say he could proceed with building the temple?** He had peace on all sides of his kingdom. He had no enemies or misfortunes.
- **What did Solomon ask Hiram to do?** Cut cedar and cypress timber to use to build the temple.

Hiram's response, verses 7–18

Key Point

Though God resided within the Old Testament temple, He was hidden behind the veil in the Most Holy Place. Jesus is the unveiled Most Holy Place, accessible to all, enfolding believers in the arms of His Word and Sacraments.

Pronunciations

Hiram: HIGH rum

Lebanon: LEB uh none

Sidonians:

sigh DAWN ih uns

Tyre: tire

*Digs into
God's Word*

Key Point

Though God resided within the Old Testament temple, He was hidden behind the veil in the Most Holy Place. Jesus is the unveiled Most Holy Place, accessible to all, enfolding believers in the arms of His Word and Sacraments.

- **What did Hiram ask for in exchange for timber** (v. 9)? Food
- **List three materials used to build the temple** (vv. 8, 17). Cedar, cypress, stone
- **On newsprint, write a work order showing each king and what he provided plus the number of workers and their job** (vv. 10–11, 13–18). Solomon provided 20,000 cors of wheat and 20,000 cors of beaten oil to Hiram. (A cor was six bushels, or 220 liters.) Hiram provided cedar and cypress.
We don't know how many workers Hiram used, but Solomon drafted 183,000 workers: 30,000 timber cutters with 10,000 going to Lebanon for a month at a time; 70,000 burden-bearers; 80,000 stonecutters; and 3,300 officers in charge of the stonecutting work.

PART TWO: Building, 1 Kings 6

Dimensions, verses 1–2

- **Do the math. How long, wide, and high was the temple? One cubit = 18 inches, or 45 centimeters.** 60 cubits long = 90 feet, or 27.5 meters; 20 cubits wide = 30 feet, or 9 meters; 30 cubits high = 45 feet, or 13.5 meters

Features, verses 3–4, 7, 9–10, 15, 18, 21–22

- **On newsprint, write a description of the temple similar to one you'd see to describe a house for sale.** Answers vary but should mention stone, cypress, cedar, carvings, and gold covering.

God's promise, verses 11–13

- **Write the promises God made to Solomon on your newsprint.** "If you will walk in My statutes and obey My rules and keep all My commandments and walk in them, then I will establish My word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake My people Israel" (1 Kings 6:12–13).

Debriefing

When time elapses, bring students back together. Ask groups to hang up their newsprints. Choose one group from Part One to report findings with their newsprint. Ask other groups to add only new information. Do the same with Part Two groups.

Then use Poster B to point out the grandeur of Solomon's Temple and ask students to look at the picture on Folio page 3. As they do, share all or some of this information about the temple.

- The temple had three parts: the vestibule, Holy Place, and Most Holy Place.
- A priest went into the Holy Place to burn incense in morning and evening.
- God dwelled with His people in the temple at the Mercy Seat, the place between the cherubim on the cover of the ark of the covenant.
- The ark of the covenant once included manna, Aaron's rod, and the tablets of the Ten Commandments. It was later lost, probably taken by enemies.
- The two cherubim, winged messengers of God, made of olivewood and overlaid in gold stood in the Most Holy Place. They were not idols to worship but reminders of God speaking to and dwelling with His people.
- Only the high priest could go into the Most Holy Place, and only once a year, on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. He offered the blood of sacrifice and

Builds Relationships

incense before the Mercy Seat.

- The high priest tied a rope around his waist with an end outside the Most Holy Place in case something happened to him while he was in there and others needed to pull him out.

3 We Live (15 minutes)

God's Dwelling Place

Continue on Folio page 4. Bible verses are there, but questions are not.

Say When finished, Solomon and the people dedicated the temple to the worship of the Lord. Let's find out what happened that day.

Ask volunteers to read **2 Chronicles 7:1–2** aloud (Folio).

With fire, God showed the Israelites that the temple was now His dwelling place. God dwelt behind the curtain in the Most Holy Place.

But the temple is long gone, so where does God live now? God is omnipresent, so He is present everywhere in the universe, but by His Word and Sacraments, He dwells in us in a special way. Christ, our Savior, is the unveiled Most Holy Place now.

Read aloud **Acts 17:24; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Galatians 2:20;** and

Colossians 3:16 on Folio page 4; then discuss the following questions.

Where does God live? In Christians; we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Through His Word and Sacraments, Christ dwells in our hearts through faith.

When did the Lord begin to dwell in us? At Baptism, the Holy Spirit began dwelling in us. He continues to dwell in us through His Word and Sacraments.

How does Christ dwell in us through the Lord's Supper? When we eat the bread and drink the wine, we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Christ dwells in us.

What objects in our church sanctuary remind us of each of these gifts?

The font, the pulpit, and the altar

As time permits, let students choose to do Bible Words Puzzle 2 or read "Where God Dwells" in the Bible Exploration Guide (pp. 6–7).

After a few minutes, ask those who did the puzzle to read aloud **Psalms 86:9–10**: "All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God."

Ask Bible Exploration Guide readers to share what they learned about the Israelite temples and Jesus, our Temple.

Say The mealtime prayer from Luther's Small Catechism thanks God for all His good gifts that meet our physical and spiritual needs. It has two parts, a Bible verse and a prayer. Today, we learn the prayer.

Read or sing "Asking a Blessing: Prayer" (CD Track 19; Folio, p. 4).

Faith in Action

Encourage students to continue to receive God's good gifts in worship and Bible study, personal and family devotions and Bible reading, hymns and spiritual songs. In these ways, we meet Jesus, our unveiled Most Holy Place.

Goes to the Heart

Key Point

Though God resided within the Old Testament temple, He was hidden behind the veil in the Most Holy Place. Jesus is the unveiled Most Holy Place, accessible to all, enfolding believers in the arms of His Word and Sacraments.

4 Closing (3 minutes)

Ask What did you learn about God and His love for His people today?

Thank students who share.

Or review the lesson using the Lesson 2 Bible Review Cards.

As a closing prayer, read or sing “God Himself Is Present” (CD Track 2; *LSB* 907; lyrics on CD); or pray the following prayer.

Pray Lord God, dwell among us in Your Word and Sacraments. By Your mercy, teach, forgive, and lead us through these Means of Grace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.