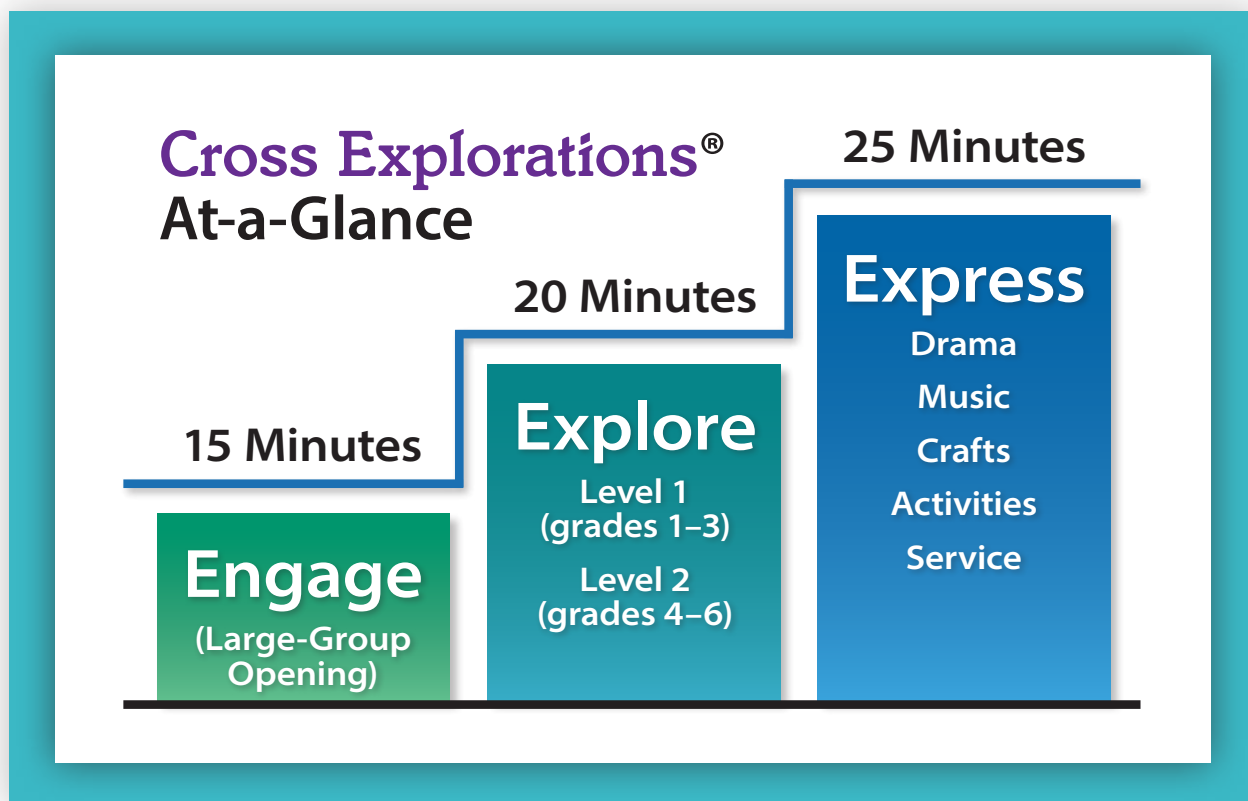




What's on the Express Activities & More CD?

The Express Activities & More CD gives you a choice of activities to help kids apply the Bible lesson to their lives. It includes science, music, games, snacks, service projects, and more, organized by week and by type of activity. Choose activities that fit the time you have available and the talents of your volunteers.

Do not expect to do all the activities each week. Rather, vary the ones you choose from week to week so students get a chance to experience different types of learning. If you use Cross Explorations in a Midweek setting, use any extra time to include additional small-group Express options.

The Craft Patterns folder on the Activities & More CD has patterns for the crafts you will find in the separate Craft Booklet in the Cross Explorations kit.

Site Leaders

Cross Explorations site leaders do what they do best! If you love helping kids apply the Bible truths in the lessons through music, games, science activities, themed food options, service projects, and the like, you'd make an excellent site leader for the Express activities on this CD. Recruit people with other talents or strengths to lead activities you are not as comfortable doing.

Site Location

Express sessions offer flexibility for meeting locations. You may choose to meet in separate classrooms that are set up for specific sites or in one larger space.

If you have multiple sites in one space, use rolling dividers, moveable walls, or even fabric panels to block sight and sound distractions. Food options will sometimes require kitchen access.

God Works through Prophets and Kings

Old Testament 4 • Activities-at-a-Glance

Lesson	Activity	Food	Service
1	Musical Reflections	Wisdom Scrolls	
2	Gravity for All	Temple Snack	Outreach Invitations
3	Blessings Kit	Snacking with Ravens	
4	Building an Altar with Gelatin Fire	Falling Fire	
5	Set Your Mind on Things Above	Heavenly Feast	
6		Bruised Flesh	Leprosy Project
7	Brought Back to Serve	Jonah and the Cross	
8		Prayer Pretzels	I-Prayed-for-You Postcards
9	New Life from the Righteous Branch	Mint Chocolate Stumps of Salvation	
10	Hidden Colors	Fiery Snack	
11	Lion Escape	Hungry Lions	
12	Jerusalem the Golden	Sweet Celebration!	
13	Scrubbed Clean and Saved	Hamantaschen Snack	

God Works through Prophets and Kings

Old Testament 4 • Lessons at-a-Glance

Lesson	Lesson Title / Scripture	Key Point
1	The Wisdom of Solomon 1 Kings 3	Solomon, though wise, needed what we and all sinners need: Christ, Wisdom Himself, and the forgiveness He brings.
2	Solomon Builds the Temple 1 Kings 5–6	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.
3	God Provides for Elijah 1 Kings 17	Just as God provided food and life for Elijah, the widow, and her son, so He provides food, forgiveness, and life eternal for us in Christ.
4	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18:20–46	Just as the true God revealed Himself on the altar of Mount Carmel, so on the cross-shaped altar of Mount Calvary, Jesus revealed, once and for all, that He alone is the real God who loves us enough to die for us.
5	Elijah Is Taken to Heaven 2 Kings 2:1–15	Elijah, like Enoch before him, was taken into heaven alive. Jesus, who is our great Elijah, ascended alive into heaven for us and our salvation.
6	Naaman and Elisha 2 Kings 5:1–14	The Word of God spoken by the prophet was in and with the water of the Jordan to restore the flesh of Naaman. The Word of God spoken by the pastor is in and with the water of Baptism to cleanse us of our sin and restore us as children of the heavenly Father.
7	Jonah Book of Jonah	Just as Jonah was swallowed up in the belly of the fish for three days, so Jesus, in His crucifixion, was baptized into the sea of death, drowned in our sin, devoured by the grave, and spewed forth alive again on the third day so that He might save us all.
8	Hezekiah Prays 2 Kings 18–19	Hezekiah prayed in faith to God and was delivered. Jesus, our mediator and advocate with the Father, intercedes for us, granting us deliverance from sin, death, and the devil.
9	Jeremiah and God's New Covenant Jeremiah 1:4–10; 29:1–14; 31:31–34; 33:14–16	God promised to restore His wayward people, pointing them to a new covenant and a righteous Branch of David. Jesus, the promised Branch, fulfilled this covenant of righteousness for Jeremiah, Israel, and all believers.
10	The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace Daniel 3	Just as Jesus was with the three men in the fiery furnace and saved them, so our Savior is with us in His Word and Sacraments, sustaining us when we suffer for His name.
11	Daniel in the Lions' Den Daniel 6	Jesus, who saved Daniel, would Himself be given over to the satanic lion to save the world.
12	God's People Go Home Ezra 1–3; 7:11–28; Nehemiah 2:1–8; 12:27–43	God used unbelieving kings to restore His exiled people to Jerusalem according to His will. God sent Jesus, the King of kings, to Jerusalem to restore His wayward people to Himself forever.
13	Esther Book of Esther	In the actions of Esther, we see the pattern of deliverance that God sketches throughout the story of Israel, a pattern that finds its fulfillment in Jesus, our Savior.



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Edited by Lorraine Groth

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Musical Reflections

Lesson 1

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

Key Point

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

Purpose

Help students understand music as a reflection of values, and encourage critical thinking about the music they allow into their lives.

You Need

- ☐ Timer or watch with a second hand
- ☐ Score-keeping materials

Do This

The objective of this game is to think of more songs containing a given word than the other team.

Divide the class into two teams. Give the chosen word to both teams. Allow thirty seconds for both teams to begin thinking of songs that contain the given word.

Have the first team sing at least six words of a song containing the word. The second team follows. Play alternates until one team cannot think of another song. The team who sang the most songs wins the word.

Suggested word list: money, know, car, wise, love

Note: Because of the number of songs containing the word *love*, play this word last.

Make the Point

Ask Which word was the easiest to play?

Accept responses. **Which was the most difficult?** Accept responses.

Say Music reflects our society: what is important to us, what we value. Based on

our music, what does our society value?

Accept responses.

Help students understand how the love talked about in the songs mentioned is probably different from godly love.

Say Even when the world around him valued good health and riches, Solomon sought wisdom.

Ask What does it mean to have wisdom? Do you know any wise people? Accept answers.

Say The word *wisdom* means “understanding” or “knowledge.” Point to your head and heart. **Wise people use their head and heart to make good decisions. But how do we know what is good and what isn’t? Read Proverbs 9:10.**

Ask What does this verse mean? Accept responses.

Say The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because the wise person seeks the will of the Lord and wants to do God’s will. Solomon wanted that wisdom. He wanted to walk in God’s footsteps and do what He said in His Word. By following such wisdom, Solomon was able to govern effectively.

But when all is said and done, Solomon still did not always act and live wisely. He was a sinner just like you and me. He wanted to fear, love, and trust in God, but he failed time and again. But there is someone who is truly, perfectly wise.

Ask Who is that? **Jesus!**

Say Jesus’ entire life on earth was spent doing His Father’s will. Jesus is God’s wisdom in the flesh, and God imparts spiritual wisdom to us through Him.

Through Jesus’ work in His life on earth and in His death and resurrection, God gives us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. By the work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are made wise—wise for salvation.

Ask How can you seek God’s wisdom? Accept responses.

Say God's children use their head, heart, and His Word to gain wisdom. Point to your head, heart, and a Bible. **They listen to and study God's Word, choose godly friends, and talk to God in prayer, asking Him to help them live according to His Word.**

Ask Thinking back to music, when we shift what is important to us, how might that affect the music we listen to? **We may still listen to other music and may still enjoy it at times, but we will grow tired of it more quickly than in the past. And we won't want to listen to music that is not in keeping with God's Word.**

Say In the next week, pay attention to the music you enjoy and think about what values of yours it shows.

Wisdom Scrolls

Lesson 1

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

Key Point

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

Purpose

Review the idea of Christ as Wisdom. Though Solomon demonstrated great wisdom through his leadership and writings, such as the Book of Proverbs, Solomon's wisdom came from God.

As a sinner like Solomon, you and I must look to Christ, not the wisdom of this world, for forgiveness and salvation.

You Need

- ☐ Fruit by the Foot fruit snacks
- ☐ Pretzel sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent markers
- ☐ "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" handout (end of activity)

Do This

Without removing the interior paper, cut each strip of Fruit by the Foot into halves or thirds so each student has a length of the fruit snack.

Unroll the Fruit by the Foot and remove the waxed paper.

Place a pretzel stick on both ends of the length and crimp the edge of the fruit snack around the pretzel.

Use permanent markers to write a message on the waxed paper strip, such as "Christ is Wisdom"; Proverbs 9:10; 1 Kings 3:9; "O Come, Thou Wisdom from on High"; or another message to remember that Christ Jesus is Wisdom personified.

Place the message on the fruit strip; then roll it up from both ends like a scroll.

Make the Point

Ask What is the difference between being smart and being wise? **Knowledge is learned, content knowledge and facts can be studied, but true wisdom comes from God, as the Holy Spirit calls us to faith and gives us understanding, compassion, a fearful reverence of the Almighty, and trust in the salvation given us in Christ.**

What does it mean to say that Christ Jesus is Wisdom? Let students offer suggestions.

Say On our own, we often fail to look to the giver of life, the giver of joy and peace, the giver of wisdom and comfort, the one true God. Instead, we look inward for answers, for happiness, for the meaning of life.

But these cannot make us wise for salvation. So God, who is the source of all wisdom, sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior from sin. Jesus is God's Wisdom personified. He gives to all who believe in Him the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Sing together stanzas 1 and 2 of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (handout), a hymn that we often sing during Advent. Point out that all the stanzas of this hymn address Christ. Stanza 2 looks for the coming of Wisdom from on high, who is our Savior, Christ Jesus.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Gravity for All

Lesson 2

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5–6

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.

Purpose

It is not our great love for God that brings us close to Him, but rather His great love for us. God drew near to His people in the Old Testament in the temple, and then, when the time was right, God sent His only Son into the world to become man and dwell with us.

Jesus came to redeem the world from sin: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Use this experiment in gravity as a way to demonstrate that we do not choose God, but rather, God draws us to Himself through Word and Sacraments.

You Need

- ☐ Chair or step stool
- ☐ Large metal baking sheet or jelly roll pan (with sides)
- ☐ Golf ball
- ☐ Tennis ball
- ☐ Ping-Pong ball
- ☐ Feather

Do This

Place the baking sheet on the floor, with the sides facing downward. This is a sound amplifier that makes the reaction easier to hear.

Pick up the tennis ball and the golf ball. Ask students if they weigh the same or whether one

ball is heavier than the other. (The golf ball is heavier.)

Hold a golf ball in one hand and a tennis ball in the other hand, and step up on the chair or step stool, or ask a student to do this. *Note:* A teacher may want to hold onto the chair and the student for stability.

Hold your arms in front of you at the same height, palms down, with the balls in your hands. On the count of three, let go of the balls at the same time.

Have students observe which ball falls faster. Do they bang onto the pan at the same time or at different times? If someone has a digital camera, you might be able to capture the balls falling.

Next, drop a feather and a Ping-Pong ball. Observe what happens. Then drop the golf or tennis ball with the Ping-Pong ball.

Understand It

The tennis ball and the golf ball hit the pan at the same time. Earth’s gravity—the force that keeps our feet on the ground—pulls on objects with the same force, so they fall at the same rate. Even the light Ping-Pong ball falls at the same rate as the golf or tennis ball.

The feather falls more slowly because, despite the pull of gravity, air pushes up against the feather’s surface area, which is large in relation to its mass, making it float down slowly. Objects with greater mass and density (like the balls) are less affected by air resistance, but all objects fall to the ground because of gravity.

Make the Point

After you have dropped the balls and feather, ask students what they saw.

Ask Which ball fell faster? Did they bang onto the pan at the same time or at different times? **The balls hit the pan at the same time. Why do you think this happens? Gravity pulls on objects with the same force, so they fall at the same rate.**

Say The balls do not decide to fall to the pan; rather they are drawn to the pan by the force of gravity. This is true in our

spiritual life too. On our own, we cannot love God. But God loves us and, by grace, saved us through faith. The Bible says, “This is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

God had a plan to save us. That plan can be traced through Scripture. From the beginning, He chose a people to be His own, and through these people, He promised to send the One who would redeem the world.

In today’s lesson, we heard about Solomon, who ruled over God’s people, the Israelites, in a time of relative peace, unhindered by wars or natural disasters. God chose him to build a place for God’s glory.

The temple was a beautiful building, made by skilled craftsmen using the finest materials. Thousands upon thousands of people worked hard for seven years to make it.

Ask What activities took place at the temple? **Incense was burned in the Holy Place twice a day and prayers were said for God’s people. Sacrifices were offered on the altar in front of the temple for the sins of the people.**

What was the most important thing about the temple? **It was the place where God dwelled with His people (1 Kings 5:5).**

Say God loved His people and promised that He would be with them. He said, “I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake My people Israel” (1 Kings 6:13). When the people were sad about their sins, God forgave them and brought them healing. When they were worried about their problems, God’s power and wisdom brought them comfort.

God drew near to His people in the Old Testament in the temple, and then, when the time was right, God sent His only Son into the world to become man and dwell with us.

Ask What did Jesus do for us? **Jesus kept God’s Law for us and paid for our sins with His suffering and death on the cross. His resurrection from the dead assures us of our own resurrection to eternal life.**

How does God dwell with us today?
Accept thoughts.

Say God still dwells with us in the person of Jesus Christ. Through His Word and the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion, God’s grace and mercy in Christ comes to us, offering us forgiveness and life. Through these, God the Holy Spirit draws us to Him, gives us faith to believe in Jesus, and helps us to grow as God’s children.

Temple Snack

Lesson 2

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5–6

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.

Purpose

God gave His Old Testament people a place to worship Him—a place where He promised to meet with them and they could be sure He would hear them. That place was the temple.

Today, we have many church buildings where we worship God. And we know that God hears our prayers no matter where we worship. That's because now, our real temple is Jesus Christ Himself! We can always come to God through Jesus, knowing that God will accept us because of Jesus' work.

You Need

- ☐ Plates
- ☐ Graham crackers
- ☐ Cream cheese or icing to serve as glue (in squeeze bottles, if possible; otherwise, place in bowls with spoons or knives)
- ☐ Small gummy bears
- ☐ Square flat candies, such as Starburst
- ☐ Tootsie Rolls or other cylindrical candies
- ☐ Fruit leather, Fruit by the Foot, or sticks of gum
- ☐ Plastic knives to cut fruit leather
- ☐ Temple handout, 1 per student (end of activity)

Do This

Have a completed model to show students, if possible. Then allow students to create their own

miniature versions of Solomon's temple, using the materials provided.

Give students a copy of the temple handout (end of activity) and explain the furnishings in the temple.

Ask students to wash their hands before starting, and consider having them wear aprons or other cover-ups, such as old dress shirts, if you have them.

Note that the fruit leather, Fruit by the Foot, or sticks of gum, cut to size, can be used for the veil of the Most Holy Place; the cylindrical candy is for the two pillars of the temple; and the square candies can be used for altars and for the ark of the covenant. Two gummy bears on top of the ark may work as a substitute for the cherubim.

Once their creations are complete, students can take them home or eat them on the spot.

Make the Point

Say I hope you had fun making your temple! Does anyone know how long it took Solomon and the people to build their temple? **Seven years** (1 Kings 6:38). That was a lot of hard work. But they did it because they wanted to have the place God promised, a place where God would meet with human beings and they could pray for help and worship Him.

Ask Can you go to visit Solomon's temple today? **No.** That's right, enemies of the Israelites tore it down long ago. But we can go somewhere else when we want to pray and worship God. Where? Allow answers.

Say Yes, we can go to church. We can go to chapel, if we go to a Christian school. We can pray at home. In fact, we can pray anywhere, because Jesus is with us always.

Jesus is the real temple, and He has promised to be with us always. In Solomon's temple, the priests made sacrifices over and over for sin. But Jesus sacrificed Himself once for all on the cross to pay for the sin of the world.

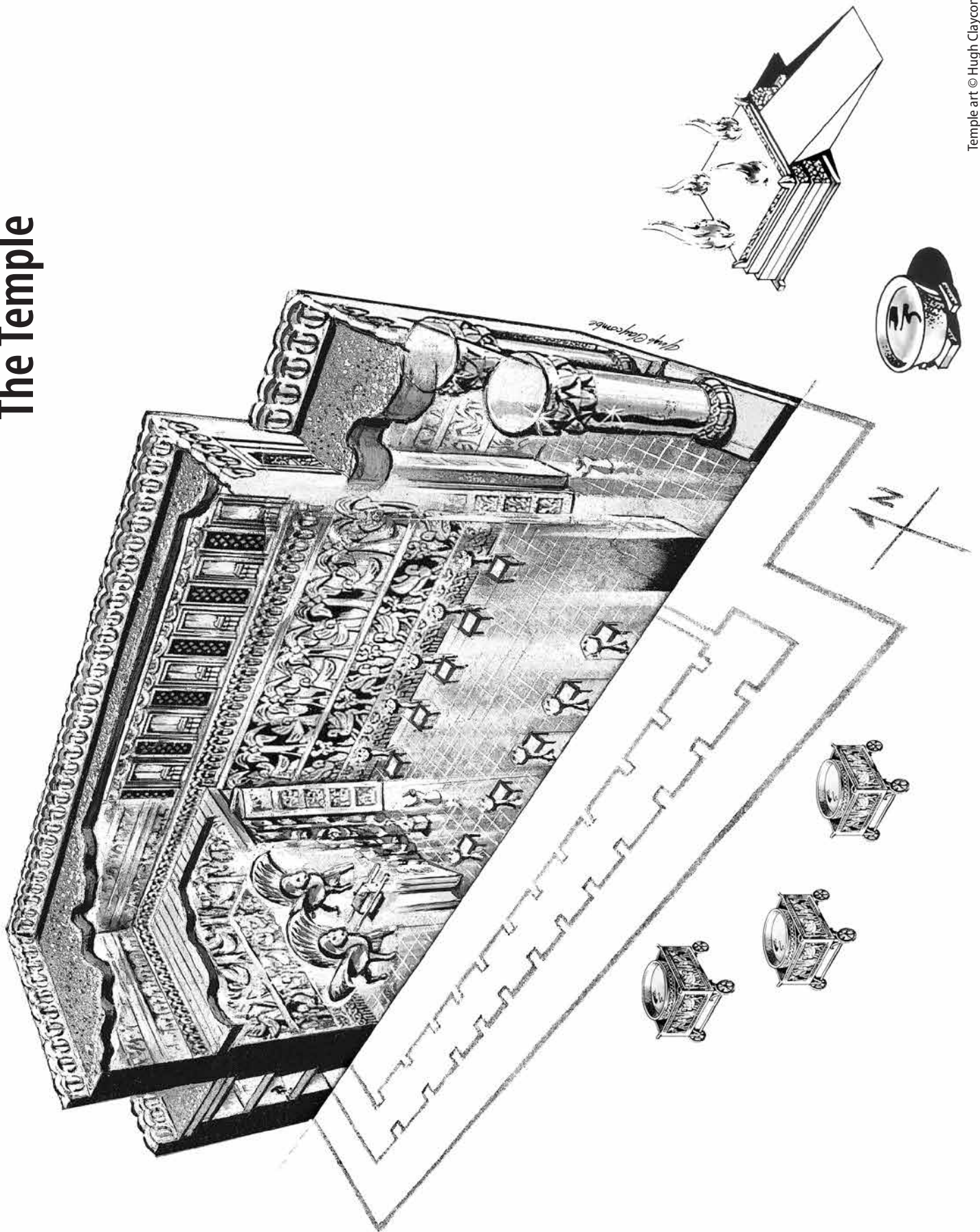
Then He rose again on Easter and went back to heaven at Ascension to prepare a place for us.

Before He ascended, though, Jesus promised to be with us always. He will never leave us. Now, as our priest, Jesus intercedes for us before His Father in heaven, asking Him to forgive us for His sake. And God does!

Solomon's temple was very beautiful—God's house made by human hands. But Jesus is God's living house born among us, not made. We can always go to Jesus for help. He is God with us, Immanuel, our Savior.

Lead students in a prayer of thanks for their food before eating the snack.

The Temple



Outreach Invitations

Lesson 2

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5–6

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.

Purpose

God gave His Old Testament people a place to worship Him—a place where He promised to meet with them and they could be sure He would hear them and forgive their sins. That place was the temple.

God wants us to worship Him and receive His gifts of forgiveness and salvation too. Today, we do that when we gather together in church as His people to receive His gifts through Word and Sacraments and to respond with our worship, prayers, and offerings. God also wants all people to be saved.

Use this activity as an outreach project to invite people in your neighborhood to one of your church worship services so they, too, will hear the Good News about Jesus.

You Need

- ☐ Door hanger, 1 per student (end of activity)
- ☐ Decorating supplies (e.g., markers, ribbon, glitter)
- ☐ List of information about your church
- ☐ Bibles or handout of Bible verses (end of activity)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ *Optional:* Small treats to attach to the door hangers (e.g., fast food coupon, wrapped candy, devotional tract)

Do This

Decide which door hanger to use, and make copies of it for your students.

If you want the students to add their own Bible verses to the door hangers, provide a list of verses or references for them to look up and copy from their Bibles (or give them the list of references at the end of this activity).

Set out pens or markers and other decorating supplies for the door hangers so the students can fill in your church information and personalize the door hangers. (If you do not want to hand-print the information on the door hangers, print it on large labels that students can attach to the door hanger.)

Option: Have the students make a number of door hangers. Organize an event where the students and other congregational members distribute the door hangers around your neighborhood or in a certain part of your town to invite people to worship with you on a specific outreach Sunday or to attend your summer VBS or the like.

Make the Point

Say God chose Solomon to build a place for God's glory. The temple was a beautiful building, made by skilled craftsmen using the finest materials. Thousands upon thousands of people worked hard for seven years to make it.

Ask What activities took place at the temple? **Incense was burned in the Holy Place twice a day and prayers were said for God's people. Sacrifices were offered on the altar in front of the temple for the sins of the people.**

What was the most important thing about the temple? It was the place where God dwelled with His people (see 1 Kings 5:5).

Say God loved His people and promised that He would be with them. He told Solomon to build the temple so He could dwell with them there. When the people were sad about their sins, God forgave them and brought them healing. When they were worried about their problems,

God's power and wisdom brought them comfort.

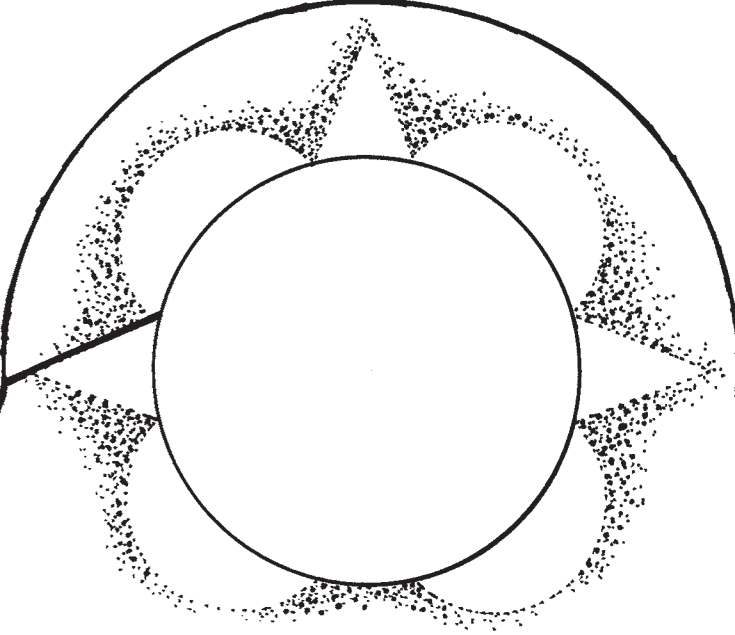
God drew near to His people in the Old Testament in the temple, and then, when the time was right, God sent His only Son into the world to become man and dwell with us.

Ask What did Jesus do for us? **Jesus kept God's Law for us and paid for our sins with His suffering and death on the cross. His resurrection from the dead assures us of our own resurrection to eternal life.**

Say God wants everyone to hear the Good News about Jesus and be saved. How can they hear about Jesus? Accept student answers. **One way people can hear that Jesus loves them and is their Savior is by inviting them to church, where God's grace and mercy in Christ come to us through His Word and Sacraments and offer us forgiveness and life.**

Today, you'll make an outreach door hanger to invite people to our church so they can hear about Jesus. Show sample. Each of you can decorate the door hanger as you like. You can add a Bible verse or personal invitation along with our church information and times of our worship services.

You can take the hanger home to put on the door of someone you want to invite to church or you can give the door hanger to the person with a personal invitation.



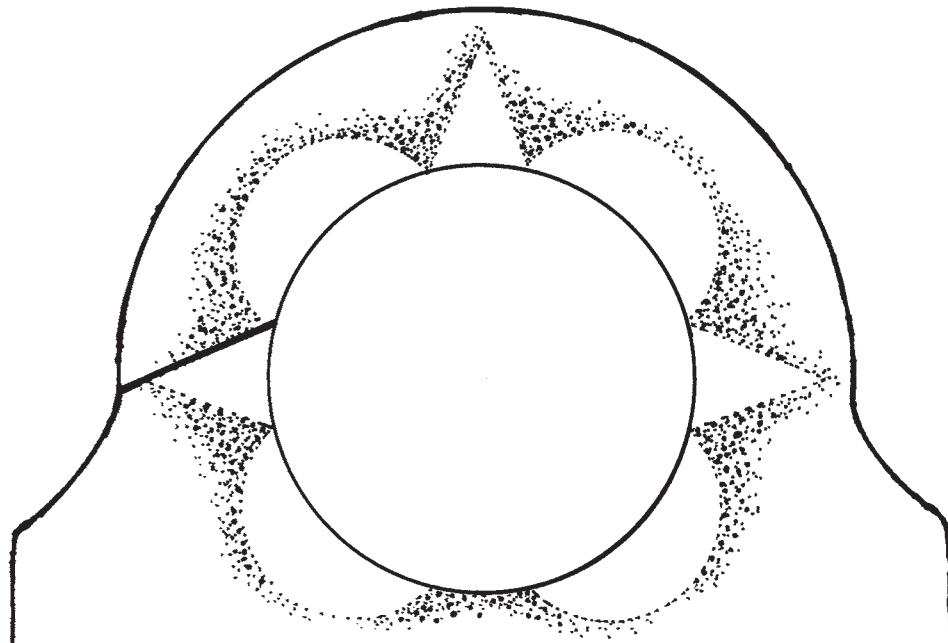
Come, Meet Jesus!

Where: _____

Address: _____

Time: _____

Church contact information: _____



Come, Meet Jesus!

Where: _____
(Church)

Address: _____

Time: _____

Church contact information: _____

I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3:20

Bible Passages

Come to Me . . . and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10

I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.

Revelation 3:20