



IF YOU WALK BEFORE ME WITH A HEART OF INTEGRITY
UNIT 12 • SESSION 2

SOLOMON

THE WORSHIPPING KING

MAIN POINT

God's faithfulness and forgiveness are always with you.

1 KINGS 8:10-13 • THE TEMPLE HOUSED GOD'S PRESENCE

10 When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the LORD's temple, **11** and because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple. **12** Then Solomon said: The LORD said that he would dwell in total darkness. **13** I have indeed built an exalted temple for you, a place for your dwelling forever.

1 KINGS 8:14-21 • THE TEMPLE DECLARED GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

14 The king turned around and blessed the entire congregation of Israel while they were standing. **15** He said: Blessed be the LORD God of Israel! He spoke directly to my father David, and he has fulfilled the promise by his power. He said, **16** "Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city to build a temple in among any of the tribes of Israel, so that my name would be there. But I have chosen David to rule my people Israel." **17** My father David had his heart set on building a temple for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. **18** But the LORD said to my father David, "Since your heart was set on building a temple for my name, you have done well to have this desire. **19** Yet you are not the one to build it; instead, your son, your own offspring, will build it for my name." **20** The LORD has fulfilled what he promised. I have taken the place of my father David, and I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised. I have built the temple for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. **21** I have provided a place there for the ark, where the LORD's covenant is that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

1 KINGS 8:33-40 • THE TEMPLE DISPLAYED GOD'S FORGIVENESS

33 When your people Israel are defeated before an enemy, because they have sinned against you, and they return to you and praise your name, and they pray and plead with you for mercy in this temple, **34** may you hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel. May you restore them to the land you gave their ancestors. **35** When the skies are shut and there is no rain, because they have sinned against you, and they pray toward this place and praise your name, and they turn from their sins because you are afflicting them, **36** may you hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants and your people Israel, so that you may teach them to walk on the good way. May you send rain on your land that you gave your people for an inheritance. **37** When there is famine in the land, when there is pestilence, when there is blight or mildew, locust or grasshopper, when their enemy besieges them in the land and its cities, when there is any plague or illness, **38** every prayer or petition that any person or that all your people Israel may have— they each know their own affliction—as they spread out their hands toward this temple, **39** may you hear in heaven, your dwelling place, and may you forgive, act, and give to everyone according to all their ways, since you know each heart, for you alone know every human heart, **40** so that they may fear you all the days they live on the land you gave our ancestors.

INTRO OPTION 1

DREAM HOME

SUPPLIES LIST

NO SUPPLIES NEEDED.

Have students tell you the ultimate place they would want to live. Have them describe the city, their house, what fun things they could do there, etc. It can be a fictional place or a real place they would want to live. Then, have them tell you what makes them want to live there. Do they know someone there or is it simply their surroundings that draws them there? In today's session, we will learn that God is faithful to provide forgiveness for people so that He might dwell with them. Because we know that God dwells with us in Jesus Christ, we live in devotion and obedience to God so that the original purpose of the temple can be fulfilled: the people of the earth will know our God is King.

INTRO OPTION 2

FAVORITE TRIP

SUPPLIES LIST

NO SUPPLIES NEEDED.

Have students tell you their favorite place they have ever visited on a trip or vacation. It could be DisneyWorld in Orlando. It could be a beach in Florida, a mountain in the northwest, and so on. Then have them describe the place, pointing out that the way they describe the place reveals why they loved it so much. In today's session, we will learn God is faithful to provide forgiveness for people so that He might dwell with them. Because we know that God dwells with us in Jesus Christ, we live in devotion and obedience to God so that the original purpose of the temple can be fulfilled: the people of the earth will know our God is King.



SCRIPTURE READING

MAIN POINT

God's faithfulness and forgiveness are always with you.

1. THE TEMPLE HOUSED GOD'S PRESENCE

READ 1 KINGS 8:10-13

The Lord dwelt with His people since the Exodus. At first, He led them by a cloud during the day and fire by night. His presence was manifested through the cloud at Mt. Sinai and also over the tabernacle. In 1 Kings 8, a temple is finally completed. But what good is a temple if God is not there? Just as He had met them at Sinai and dwelt with them in the tabernacle, God descended in a cloud and filled the temple.

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD "TEMPLE"?

The temple was the center of religious life for the nation of Israel. It was the place of sacrifice, offering, worship, etc. But above all of that, it was the place where God revealed His presence among His people. It was, quite literally, the house of God. And 1 Kings 8 was move-in day.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD?

God chose to dwell in the temple in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament, He made His dwelling in us. We, His church (not the building), are the temple of God. Just as the temple was the center of Old Testament religious practice, now the center of worship is the gathered church. When we gather in His name, He is within us and among us. The sacrifices we bring are praise, generosity, and service. Everything you do with your body is an act of worship because your body is now the place of worship—the temple of the living God.

2. THE TEMPLE DECLARED GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

READ 1 KINGS 8:14-21

HOW DID THE TEMPLE SHOW GOD'S FAITHFULNESS?

David wanted to build a house for God, but God told him that his son would build the temple after his death. God promised that the temple would be completed by Solomon. The consecration of the temple during Solomon's reign fulfilled that promise. The occasion itself was a memorial to God's faithfulness.



1 KINGS 8:10-13

8:10-11. “This was the cloud of God’s glory that led Israel in the wilderness (Ex. 16:10), the cloud that filled the tabernacle when Moses dedicated that earlier worship center (Ex. 40:34–35) . . . Here the glory demonstrates divine approval of Solomon’s temple. Just as God was with Moses, so now God is with this new generation of Israelites. Such continuity reaffirms the Lord’s never-changing character, desire to have fellowship with human beings, and ongoing commitment to the chosen people.”⁸

8:12-13. “God’s temple is the heavens (8:39, 43, 49), but the Most Holy Place with the ark and the cherubs now represent his heavenly temple.”⁹

1 KINGS 8:14-21

8:14-21. “Solomon’s words express the importance of the temple in the history of the nation and the role it will have in future relationships between God and his people. The presence of the temple assures the people that God has secured a royal dynasty for his people (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12–17). The temple is the place where the ark of God’s covenant finds its rest (1 Kings 8:21). The ark represents the special legal bond uniting God and Israel.”¹⁰

8:14-21. “The temple is central from this time forward; it represents the covenant bond and the establishment of the promised kingdom.”¹¹



BIG QUESTION

WHY DOES GOD CARE ABOUT WHAT I DO WITH MY BODY?

Western culture is deeply individualistic. We don’t like being told what we can and can’t do with our bodies, and that extends to our relationship with God. But that kind of thinking has no place in the Christian mind. The apostle Paul said, “Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). My body is not mine; it is the Lord’s. It is a holy temple to be used for His honor and worship. To use it for sin is to turn it into a pagan temple. We can either worship self and sin or we can worship our Savior. Use your body to worship Jesus.



SCRIPTURE READING

MAIN POINT

God's faithfulness and forgiveness
are always with you.

WHAT IN OUR LIVES IS A TESTAMENT TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS?

As we've already learned, we are the temple of God. Our lives should be a living testimony of God's faithfulness. Let's take a moment to recount God's faithfulness in our own lives and how our stories can be used to show others that God is faithful.

3. THE TEMPLE DISPLAYED GOD'S FORGIVENESS

READ 1 KINGS 8:33-40

WHAT SHOULD THE ISRAELITES HAVE DONE WHEN THEY SINNED AGAINST THE LORD?

Solomon said the Israelites should come to the temple or pray toward the temple and cry out for mercy. Coming to the temple was an outward way of showing that you were coming back to God. Like a prodigal son coming back home to his father's house, so Israel should come back to the house of God for forgiveness.

In the New Testament, we come back to God by coming to Jesus. Jesus said He was the temple of God (see John 2:21). If we want to come to God, we must go to Jesus. And when we do, we will find the forgiveness we are seeking.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO COME TO JESUS IF HE IS IN HEAVEN NOW?

How do you encounter Jesus in the 21st century? One way is through the gospel. That is, we receive the good news about Jesus (the gospel) in faith. Another way is when we encounter Jesus through the Bible—because the Bible is ultimately about Him. Robert Plummer says, "The storyline of the Bible reveals the need for Jesus, the promise of Jesus, the anticipation of Jesus, the incarnation/arrival of Jesus, the teachings of Jesus, the crucifixion of Jesus, the ascension of Jesus, and the promised return of Jesus. The Bible is a book about Jesus."¹² You can also encounter Jesus through the church since it is the body of Christ. We take steps toward Jesus by stepping into the community of faith. So, if we want to come to God, we must come to Jesus, who is made available to us through the gospel, made known to us in the Bible, and is present with us through His Spirit-filled church.



BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

8:14-21. “Concrete historical evidence of God’s commitment to saving the chosen people paved the way for future saving events.”¹³

1 KINGS 8:33-40

8:33-40. “Solomon takes a position at the altar in front of all the people and begins his prayer of dedication. Standing with one’s hands spread toward heaven is a customary posture of prayer (v. 22), though Solomon is later said to have been kneeling (v. 54) . . . Kneeling and standing are both depicted as postures in prayer, often with palms opened. Standing before a seated deity signifies an attitude of readiness for service; kneeling or sitting depicts humility in the presence of the deity.”¹⁴

8:33-40. “According to Lev. 26:17 and Deut. 28:25, one of the ways God will punish Israel is by allowing their enemies to defeat them. Israel’s defeat by lowly Ai (Josh 7:1–11), constant losses in Judges, and humiliation at the hand of Philistia (1 Sam 4:1–11) illustrate this principle. Solomon knows both the teachings in the Pentateuch and the people’s not-so-glorious past. He understands that such national defeats are the result of rebellion against the covenant God . . . All Solomon can pray for is that the people will come to their senses after such catastrophes. He hopes they will ‘turn back,’ or repent, and ‘confess’ their allegiance to their Lord.”¹⁵

8:33-40. “God corrects in order to effect needed changes, not to vent personal anger. Throughout his prayer, Solomon balances a sense of realism about sin and his desire that sin and the punishment that necessarily follows it never be the final word in Israel . . . Solomon does hope, then, and his hope is founded on God’s Word.”¹⁶



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit indwells the church, both individually and corporately (see 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 12:13). As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we live our lives differently than before, bearing the virtuous fruit that comes only by the indwelling work of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22-23). This indwelling work of the Spirit also equips individual members of the church with gifts for the work of the ministry (see 1 Cor. 12:11).

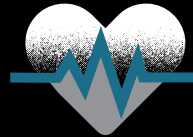


CHRIST CONNECTION

The temple was to be a place where the presence of God would be experienced so that the nations would know the Lord is God. Jesus spoke of Himself as God's Temple, and in His life, death, and resurrection, He made the way for all people everywhere to know God.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

HOW SHOULD VIEWING YOURSELF AS A TEMPLE CHANGE THE WAY YOU PROCESS DECISIONS?

We think of temples as sacred spaces. We care for them and treat them with respect. But you are sacred, too. Your body should be valued and cared for and honored. This includes everything from health and rest to sexual purity to how you respect others' bodies. God wants you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. How would you prepare a house for a special guest? Strive to be a fitting home for the Spirit of God.

WHAT REMINDS YOU OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS EVEN IN TRYING SEASONS?

God is faithful even when we have a hard time seeing it in our circumstances. He does not change—even when our lives do. The eternal testament to God's faithfulness is the cross and empty tomb. Remind yourself of the gospel. Look at what Jesus has done for you and remember that God is faithful.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE BE SEEKING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD? WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

We should confess in the same way we sin—daily. Don't let it pile up like a big load of laundry. When you make the wrong choice and you know in your heart you have done the wrong thing, lift a prayer for forgiveness. Confession should be a regular habit, and if we make a habit of confession, we will make a habit of repenting and turning away from those sins.