

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 6-8



CHRIST CONNECTION: The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

KEY PASSAGE: Fear the LORD and turn from evil. Proverbs 3:7

STORY POINT: Solomon built a temple for God to dwell with His people.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

In 1 Kings 6-8, Solomon embarked on the project his father, David, had first envisioned: building a temple for God. It was no small task, yet Solomon set out to create a place for God to dwell with His people. Though the fullness of our omnipresent God cannot be contained by man-made structures, the temple represents a greater fulfillment: God would send His Son to live, die, and rise again so that God's people would dwell in His presence forever.

What was the temple's purpose? Why do we no longer need the temple today?

Solomon built the temple as a place for God's people to worship and experience His presence, similar to the role the tabernacle had previously held for Israel. The temple was a reminder of God's promise never to leave or forsake Israel and to remain faithful to His covenant promises. Because Solomon sought to honor the Lord as holy, he spent seven years thoughtfully and intricately designing every detail of the temple.

Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord and blessed Israel as they stood before it. He recalled God's faithfulness in rescuing their ancestors from Egypt and then in establishing the throne of his father David. Solomon prayed to the Lord, esteeming Him as the gracious God who keeps His promises. Solomon recognized God's glory and might, stating that He could not be contained by a man-made temple. Solomon asked the Lord to hear their prayers, forgive them, righteously judge them, and uphold their cause for His glory. Lastly, Solomon urged Israel to be devoted to God's ways.

In Jesus, we see the fulfillment of God's promise to dwell among His people. Jesus came to earth to provide the way for God's people to worship Him in Spirit and in truth wherever they are. Before Jesus' ascension, He promised His followers that the Holy Spirit would come, giving them power to share the gospel and follow Jesus' commands. Now, believers become living temples of God, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and being built up together into one house of worship. (1 Peter 2:5)

Lead boys and girls to see that Jesus has made the way for believers to dwell with God forever. Remind kids that Christians can worship God anywhere through His Spirit living in them and that one day, God's people will worship Him face to face.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Dress up in construction worker clothes

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ construction hats
- ☐ tool belts
- ☐ safety vests



LEARN

Find construction tools

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ toolbox
- ☐ toy tools

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "Solomon Built the Temple" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ toy tools, 1 per child

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Play in a construction yard

- ☐ shallow bin
- ☐ sand
- ☐ stones
- ☐ toy construction vehicles

Draw around toy tools

- ☐ toy tools, 1 per child



LIVE

Hammer golf tees

- ☐ golf tees
- ☐ toy hammers
- ☐ foam board
- ☐ goggles

Missions activity

- ☐ "Orvil Reid Photos" printable
- ☐ nature items (twigs, flowers, leaves)

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Connect Tools" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Stack and build with plastic cups

- ☐ plastic cups

Put together puzzles

- ☐ preschool puzzles



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

DRESS UP IN CONSTRUCTION WORKER CLOTHES

On a table just inside the room door, spread out construction hats, tool belts, and safety vests. Display the Big Picture Question Poster on or near a table. As the children arrive, bend down to their level and tell them how glad you are to see them. Show children the table and invite them to try on some of the construction pieces. Help the children as needed with putting on the items. While the children try on the items, ask them to tell you how some of the construction items are used in building projects.

SAY “Boys and girls, it’s good to see you today. Did you enjoy trying on the construction items? [Allow responses.] We started learning last week about a man named King Solomon. Last week, King Solomon asked God for wisdom. This week, we are going to hear how **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE**. Even though the temple was big and beautiful, Solomon knew it couldn’t hold God because there is no one like God. God knows everything and is bigger than anything. Our big picture question tells us this same thing. **What does God know? God knows everything.**”





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 FIND CONSTRUCTION TOOLS

Place the Bible Story Picture Poster and the toolbox in the group time area. Hide the toy tools around the room in plain view. Invite the children to search the room, find the tools, and bring them to the group time area. Prompt children to place the tools on the floor next to the toolbox before they are seated. Hold up each toy tool and ask children to tell how the tool is used.

SAY “We use tools like hammers and saws for building things. In our Bible story today we will learn how **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.**”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 6–8. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

SAY “King Solomon wanted to build a special house for God called the temple. He made it big and beautiful, with all the best things, so God could always be close to His people.

Inside the temple, Solomon made a very special place to hold the ark of the Lord. He covered everything in gold and made two big gold angels. It looked amazing!

Solomon asked a man named Hiram to make lots of cool things out of bronze for the temple. Hiram made pillars, a big basin, carts for water, and other things—all with pretty designs.

Then Solomon asked God’s people to bring the ark into the temple’s special place. When the priests came out of the special place, God’s glory filled the temple. Solomon said, “I made this temple for You, God, so You can stay here forever.”

Solomon prayed to God and said, “God, there is no one like You. You kept all Your promises to my father, David. Can a temple really hold you? No! You are bigger than anything! Please hear us when we pray and forgive us when we sin.”

Christ Connection: The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Distribute a tool to each child. Tell the children you are going to ask them several questions about the Bible story to see how well they listened. Tell the children that if they know the question's answer, they are to raise their hand, wait to be called on, and then place their tool in the toolbox as they answer the question. Sample questions: What did King Solomon want to build? (a temple) Why did Solomon want to build it? (so God could dwell with His people)

SAY “ King **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** When the temple was done, God’s people brought the ark into the temple’s special place. When the priests came out of the special place, God’s glory filled the temple. The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Are You Sleeping?”:

What does God know? What does God know?
Everything, everything
There is no one like Him. There is no one like Him.
Trust His way. Trust His way.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Proverbs 3:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Encourage children to tell you some of the ways they worship God at church. Then, show children how to make a fist with one hand and to pound their fist into the palm of their other hand—like a jackhammer. Lead children to pound their fists as they say each word of the phrase together.

SAY “ To fear the Lord means to obey God and do what God asks you to do. King Solomon obeyed God and led the people in building the temple. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to save us.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 BUILD A TEMPLE WITH BLOCKS



Display the Bible Story Picture Poster and place blocks nearby. Using blocks, invite preschoolers to build a temple like the one that King Solomon built. As children work to build the temple, ask them to describe the temple they see in the Bible story picture and some of the things Solomon used in his temple.

SAY “King Solomon wanted to build a special house for God. When the temple was finished, God’s glory filled the temple. The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin.”

2 PLAY IN A CONSTRUCTION YARD

Place a bin on a sturdy preschool table. Fill the bin one-third full of sand. Lay the stones and the construction vehicles on the sand. Lead children to play in the bin with the vehicles and the stones. Prompt children to drive the vehicles in the sand, to haul the stones in the bed of a truck, and to smooth the sand and get it ready for building. When children are finished playing, enlist their help in sweeping up any sand that ends up on the floor.

SAY “Before any building can be built, it is important to smooth out the ground and remove any big rocks. King Solomon wanted to build a special house for God called a temple. So, **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE**. The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin.”

3 DRAW AROUND TOY TOOLS

Before the session, write, Solomon built a temple for God to dwell with His people. on a piece of construction paper for each child. Place the toy tools, prepared papers, and markers on a tabletop. Distribute prepared papers to children. Demonstrate how to lay a tool on their paper. Then lead children to hold the tool down with one hand while tracing around the tool with a marker in the other hand. After a child has finished tracing one tool on his paper, encourage him to try tracing others. Point to the words on one of the papers.

SAY “King **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE**. Solomon asked a man named Hiram to make lots of things out of bronze for the temple such as pillars, a basin, and carts for water. Do you think that Hiram had to use tools to make the bronze things? [Allow responses.]”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 HAMMER GOLF TEES

Place golf tees, a hammer, a foam piece, and goggles on a table. Invite a child to “pound a nail.” Help the child put on the goggles. Hold the golf tee and guide the child to gently tap it with the hammer until it is just in the foam. Repeat the key passage phrase with the child as she pounds the tee the rest of the way into the foam. Encourage each child to take a turn pounding the tee and saying the phrase.

SAY “ The key passage phrase say to ‘Fear the LORD and turn from evil. Proverbs 3:7.’ To turn from evil means to tell God that we are sorry when we sin and stop doing evil. After the temple was built, Solomon prayed that God would forgive His people when they sinned. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Remind preschoolers that the good news about Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves! God wants us to tell others about Jesus. A follower of Jesus who is sent to tell others about Jesus is called a missionary. Print and display a copy of the “Orvil Reid Photos” printable. Distribute play dough and nature items to the children. Show preschoolers how they can use their strength to make a flat circle with the play dough and then press a nature item onto the play dough to make a print. Pray, thanking God for the Reids and other missionaries who use their gifts to tell people about Jesus.

SAY “ You used your strong hands to flatten the play dough and made prints of leaves and sticks. Orvil Reid was a very strong man who was a missionary in Mexico. Orvil provided a home for students in the area while they were going to school. Orvil started a print shop at the home. Some of the students helped in the print shop. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross and rise again to save people from their sin. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 BUILD A TOWER

Place a stack of blocks in the group time area. Invite children to join you for a building project. Place a large block on the floor and prompt children to take turns stacking blocks on top of that block until you have created a tower that tumbles over. Repeat the process of building towers until they tumble several more times. Thank the children for the fun time you had building together before you ask them to sit down for the Bible story.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 6–8. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

- King Solomon began building a temple for God. The temple was big and beautiful. It was a place where God could meet with His people.
- Solomon made a special place for God's ark. He covered everything in gold. It looked amazing! Workers also made furniture and other things for the temple.
- When the temple was done, Solomon prayed. He said, "God, there is no one like You. Can a temple really hold You? You are bigger than anything! Please hear us when we pray and forgive us when we sin."

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Are You Sleeping?":

What does God know? What does God know?
Everything, everything
There is no one like Him. There is no one like Him.
Trust His way. Trust His way.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Proverbs 3:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Show the marker as you say the phrase. Talk about how King Solomon prayed to God after the temple was built and asked God to forgive His people when they sinned. Ask the children to tell you about times when they had to say, "I'm sorry," for something wrong they did. When the discussion is finished, place a block on the floor in front of you. Then, invite each child to repeat the phrase with you as he adds a block to the tower.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for forgiving us when we sin, or do something wrong.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 CREATE A MOSAIC TEMPLE PICTURE



Cut pieces of construction paper into 1- to 3-inch squares. Distribute glue sticks and uncut pieces of construction paper to children. Invite children to arrange the cut, square pieces of paper on his page to look like a temple. When the children have finished arranging the cut pieces, guide them to glue down the pieces. As children arrange and glue their mosaic temples, write the key passage phrase on each page with a marker.

SAY “ Show me your mosaic temple pictures. Good job! **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** When it was done, Solomon prayed to God and asked, ‘Please hear us when we pray and forgive us when we sin.’ Being sorry for our sin and turning away from it is repentance. ”

7 STACK AND BUILD WITH PLASTIC CUPS

Place cups on a sturdy tabletop or on the floor. Show children how to turn the cups upside down and how to build a tower by stacking them in a pyramid shape. Stack and build several pyramids or other structures with the children. As you build, talk about how **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE** that was big and beautiful.

SAY “ It was fun to build with the cups. **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin. ”

8 PUT TOGETHER PUZZLES

Place puzzles on a low table. Invite a child to sit with you at the table. Guide the child to select a puzzle and lead her to dump its pieces out on the tabletop. Help the child turn over the pieces. Then, encourage her to put the puzzle back together. As the child works, ask questions: What was the name of the king in today’s Bible story? (King Solomon) What did Solomon build? (a temple) What did Solomon make a special place for? (for God to dwell with His people)

SAY “ Thank you for working puzzles with me today. Tell me about the puzzle that you put together. [Allow responses.] King Solomon built a temple for God that was big and beautiful. He made a special place for God’s ark. And when the temple was done, Solomon prayed to God. The temple was where God met with His people. God wants to be with us. Because God loves us, He sent Jesus to earth to be with people and save them from their sin. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.