

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 6-8



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Solomon built the temple, but he knew that the fullness of God did not live there. Jesus is the fullness of God, and He came to dwell on earth (John 1:14). Only those who trust in Him will be forgiven of their sin and live with God forever.

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



PREPARE

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 manmade 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 to never 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 the temple's every detail.

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 manmade 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 kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “What Doesn’t Belong?” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ 2-liter bottles, 1 per team
- ☐ water
- ☐ buckets, 2 per team
- ☐ trays, 2 per team
- ☐ plastic tablecloth, 1 per team (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map
- ☐ Giant Timeline (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ sugar cubes
- ☐ cardboard square, 1 per group
- ☐ temple picture (optional)

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Where Do You Worship?” activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Solomon Built the Temple” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 12, Session 2” Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “Orvil Reid Photos” printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ dry erase board and marker



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What is the greatest thing you have ever created or accomplished? If you were to make history for something, what would you like your legacy to be?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Doesn’t Belong?” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn that **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FILL IT UP

Form kids into two teams and guide them to each form a large circle. Place a tray in the center of the circle. On the tray, place a bucket to catch any water spills. You may also consider placing a plastic table cloth under the tray. Distribute a 2-liter bottle filled with water to a kid on each team. Be sure the cap is tightly secured to the bottle. Explain that kids must pass the water around the circle seven times. After the seventh time, the last kid to receive the water must fill up the bucket with water. The team to finish first wins.

SAY “Today, we will learn that **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** We’ll hear how God’s glory filled the temple to symbolize His presence among His people. But the temple pointed to something much greater than a mere building: it pointed to Jesus, who came to dwell on earth. Jesus said that whoever believes in Him will have springs of living water flowing within them. He said this about the Holy Spirit, who dwells in believers. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will dwell with God forever.”

☐ OPTION 2: DESIGN YOUR HOUSE



Lead kids to consider how they would decorate and design their dream homes if they were a royal king like Solomon. Allow them to be creative and to consider how big their homes would be, what type of materials would they use, where they might build their homes, etc. Would they build a swimming pool? Would they add a movie theater? Instruct kids to draw their dream homes as they discuss the details they would add to their homes.

SAY “Now, imagine you were tasked with building a house for God. Would you change anything about the home you designed? Why? [Allow responses.] Today, we will see how Solomon built a house for God called a temple. Solomon made a beautiful building out of many costly and precious materials. While God is too big to be contained to a house, we’ll learn that the temple was a symbol of God’s presence among His people.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I am excited to share a true story from the Bible with you. Reading from the Bible is one way we can grow in our knowledge of God, who knows everything. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

As we hear our story, we will see that **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] The word ‘dwell’ means to live among. We’ll learn that God has always desired to live among His people. Let’s pray together: ‘God, thank You for desiring to be with us and for making the way for us to be with You forever through Your Son, Jesus. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe Your Word. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Last week, we asked the question: **What does God know?** Who remembers the answer? [Allow responses.] **God knows everything about the past, present, and future.**

Since God knows everything, He has always known what would take place in the world He created. Because this is true, He has always known that the people He created would need a Savior—Jesus. We see God’s great knowledge at work in the story of Solomon’s temple as it points us to the need for the fullness of God to dwell in us through Jesus. When we place our trust in Jesus, we will be forgiven of our sin and have the Holy Spirit dwell within us. One day, when Jesus returns, believers will dwell with God forever. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “King Solomon was the son of David. God chose Solomon to be king over Israel after David died. Last week, we learned that Solomon was young and inexperienced. When God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told Solomon to ask for anything, Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God’s people. God gave Solomon wisdom, and Solomon became the wisest earthly king to ever live. Today, we will learn how Solomon built a temple for the Lord because he remembered God’s promise to allow David’s son to build the temple. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 6–8. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Solomon Built the Temple.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

“Solomon had been king for four years when he began to build the temple for the Lord. He planned to build a big, beautiful building made of the finest materials for God to dwell permanently with His people.

God said to Solomon, “If you obey my commandments, I will fulfill my promise to you that I made to your father David. I will dwell with my people and not abandon them.”

The ark of the Lord’s covenant would be in the innermost part of the temple. Solomon overlaid everything in this part of the temple with pure gold, including the altar. He also made two huge statues of cherubim (a type of angel) that were overlaid with gold. It was a beautiful space for the ark of the Lord’s covenant.

Solomon hired a man named Hiram to create objects out of pure bronze for the temple. Hiram made pillars, a large basin, water carts, and more out of bronze. Everything he made was beautifully decorated with pomegranates, lilies, lions, oxen, and angels.

Solomon gathered all of Israel to bring the ark of the Lord’s covenant into the temple, to the most holy place beneath the wings of the cherubim. When the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Solomon said, “I have built an exalted temple for You, God, a place for You to live forever.”

King Solomon turned around and blessed all of Israel, saying, “The LORD has fulfilled what He promised. I sit on the throne of Israel, and I have built the temple for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.”

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord, and spread out his hands toward heaven, and prayed to God:

“LORD God of Israel, there is no god like You.

You have kept what You promised to my father David.

“But will God live on earth?

Even the highest heaven cannot contain You,

Much less this temple I have built.

Please hear the prayers of Your people

When they pray toward this place.

May You hear in Your dwelling place in heaven and answer.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Emphasize it:

Emphasize all the detail, cost, and work that went into building a house for God.

Remind kids that God is more valuable than any earthly treasure and more worthy of all cost.

Vary your tone: As you tell the story, change your tone to draw kids’ attention to the awe and wonder of the temple. Add to their sense of curiosity as you read.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

“When Your people sin against You—
For there is no one who does not sin—

**When they return to You with all their heart and all their soul,
May You forgive Your people who sinned against You**
And may You grant them compassion.”

Christ Connection: Solomon built the temple, but he knew that the fullness of God did not live there. Jesus is the fullness of God, and He came to dwell on earth (John 1:14). Only those who trust in Him will be forgiven of their sin and live with God forever. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Solomon followed through with the plans his father David had made and built a temple for the Lord. It took him many years to complete the temple, making sure to include precious materials and hiring talented workers. What promise did God make to King Solomon in 1 Kings 6:11-13? **[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 6:11-13 aloud.]** God promised to fulfill the promise he made to King David: if Solomon obeyed God and kept His commands, God promised to dwell among the Israelites and not abandon His people.

What was in the innermost part of the temple? Look at 1 Kings 6:19. **[Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 King 6:19.]** Solomon put the ark of the Lord’s covenant in the innermost part of the temple. This area was also known as the holy of holies because only the high priest could enter it once a year to offer sacrifices as payment for sin. When Jesus came to earth, the animal sacrifices were no longer required because Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins.

What happened after the temple was complete and the priests left the temple? Look at 1 Kings 8:10-11. **[Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 King 8:10-11.]** The glory of the Lord filled the temple. God’s presence was among His people. Solomon built the temple, but he knew that the fullness of God did not live there. Jesus is the fullness of God, and He came to dwell on earth (John 1:14). Then after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to dwell inside believers. Now, God’s presence is in His people, and we display His glory to the world. Only those who trust in Him will be forgiven of their sin and live with God forever. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Solomon prayed that God would forgive His people’s sins. When Jesus came to earth, He made the way for people’s sins to be forgiven once and for all. When we place our faith in Jesus, we can experience His forgiveness and His presence for all eternity. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 12, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why are some people Christians but they don’t go to church?
2. Why is it important to be a part of a local church?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Orvil Reid Photos” as you tell kids about the missionary. Remind kids that Orvil was a missionary to Mexico City, Mexico.

SAY “ One way Orvil shared the gospel was through feats of strength demonstrations. Large crowds would gather to see these feats of strength, such as such as clasp his hands together and challenging 32 men to pull them apart or inviting 9 men to pull an iron bar from his hands.

Later, Orvil moved to Guadalajara (gwaa-duh-luh-haa-ruh) to continue his ministry. One of his ministry services was providing a home for students while they were getting their education. Orvil started a print shop at the boarding home. Some of the students helped in the print shop to earn money while they were studying. As the students lived and worked, Orvil had opportunities to share the good news about Jesus with them. ”

Remind kids that God commands all believers to share the good news. Discuss how the Holy Spirit gives followers of Jesus power to share the gospel.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Proverbs 3:7 together.

SAY “ The wisdom of King Solomon was a gift from God. We learn from our key passage that wisdom comes from trusting the Lord and turning away from sin. ”

Write the first letter of each word of the key passage on a dry erase board. Challenge kids to use the letters to help them say the key passage aloud. Repeat a couple of times.

Lead kids to sing “Fear the LORD (Proverbs 3:7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, You know all things and provide wisdom to us as we turn to You and turn away from evil. Help us place our faith in You, that we would receive forgiveness of sins and dwell with You for eternity. Amen. ”

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





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 8. Tell kids that the truth of God wanting to be with His people is all throughout the Bible. Share some specific points in history when this was made evident, such as in the Garden of Eden, the tabernacle, the temple, the incarnation of Jesus, and Pentecost. Consider pointing out these stories on the Giant Timeline.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where the temple was located. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 8:49-50 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ When Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord, he prayed that it would be a place for people to seek God and ask for forgiveness for their sins. Later, when Jesus came to earth, He told the Pharisees that something greater than the temple was here (Matthew 12:6). Jesus was speaking about Himself. While the temple invited God’s people into His presence to pray and worship Him, the sacrifices they offered at the temple were never able to take away sins. But when Jesus came as God in flesh, He offered His body as the perfect sacrifice, able to take away sin forever. Jesus also said that anyone who believes in Him can worship God anywhere in Spirit and truth because believers have the gift of the Holy Spirit (John 4:23-24). ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Is a church building the only place we can worship God? Why not? ”

Discuss how we can worship God anywhere because God is Spirit and believers worship in spirit and truth through the presence of the Holy Spirit living in them. We can worship God wherever we go or in whatever we do. Remind kids that we go to church and worship together as the body of Christ. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 4:23-24.)

SAY “ Do we have to wait until we get to heaven to experience God’s presence? Why not? ”

Remind kids that God is with Christians now through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Tell kids that when we spend time in God’s Word and are led by the Spirit, we can experience God’s presence in our lives. Share how God delights to make Himself known to us and through us. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 139:7-10.)

SAY “ How did Solomon’s prayer reveal that God knows everything? ”

Tell kids that in 1 Kings 8:39-40, Solomon said that God alone knows every human heart. Like Solomon, we can ask God to give us hearts that love Him above all else and turn away from evil. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 8:39-40.)

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: SUGAR CUBE TEMPLE

Form kids into groups of three or four. Distribute glue, sugar cubes, and a piece of cardboard for each group to use as the base of their temples. (Determine the size of cardboard according to how much physical space and time you have to complete this activity. A 1-lb box of sugar cubes has about 126 cubes; this may be enough for two groups to share.) Invite groups to construct a sugar cube temple by first determining the outline of the temple. Kids will then build upward from their outline, gluing down the sugar cubes as they build. Display a picture of the temple for inspiration. Emphasize the time, skill, and dedication it took for Solomon to build the temple where the people would worship God.

SAY “ Solomon and the talented workers took great time and dedication to construct the temple. Even building the temple was a way to worship God. Because the Holy Spirit lives in believers, we can worship God wherever we are or in whatever we do. ”

☐ OPTION 2: 20 QUESTIONS



Explain to kids that they will be working together to correctly guess a person, place, or thing from today's Bible story by asking yes or no questions. Kids will only be allowed 20 yes or no questions for each round of the game. Consider using the following topics as the answers to the yes or no questions: Solomon, temple, ark of the covenant, cherubim, altar, priest.

SAY “ A game like this is difficult to play when you can't read the mind of the person in charge! Remember: the temple was created to honor the God who knows everything. Nothing is a surprise to God. He knows our sin, and in His perfect knowledge, He made the way for our sin to be forgiven through Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, we have the promise of life with God forever. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for sending Jesus so believers can dwell with Him forever. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Where Do You Worship?” on the activity page.