

# 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

- ☐ "Temple Match" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ play dough
- ☐ picture of the temple

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ plastic cups, 56



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ beach ball
- ☐ permanent marker
- ☐ world map

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring 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)



## 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 something you have built or made? How long did it take you to make it?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Temple Match” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today, we’ll see how **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.**”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: SCULPT IT



Provide kids with play dough, and challenge them to make pillars, bowls, and a door. Invite kids to display the items once they have sculpted them. Show a picture of the temple, either from the Bible Story Picture Poster or a picture you have printed. Tell kids that the items they sculpted were like some of the items found at the temple Solomon built.

| **SAY** “Today, we will learn that **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** The temple had large pillars, giant doors, bowls called basins, and much more. We’ll see how Solomon took great care to lead workers to build the temple for God’s glory.”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: STACK IT

Before the session, place 10 plastic cups in a pyramid. Place a set of 18 plastic cups in a circular tower, with 6 cups on each level. Call the kids attention to each design. Then invite two kids to build each design. Distribute a set of 10 plastic cups to one kid and 18 cups to the other kid. When you say go, direct the kids to stack the cups in 30 seconds. Continue playing by inviting two new volunteers each round.

| **SAY** “Like you had a plan for how to stack the cups, Solomon had a plan for how to build a temple for the Lord. God had given Solomon great wisdom to build the temple. Today, we’ll learn how Solomon thought about every part of the temple and designed it to be a place worthy for God to dwell in.”

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. If you have a Bible with you, will you hold it up? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] The Bible is God’s Word to us, and every story we read is true. All of the stories help us learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

As we hear our story, we will learn that **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] The word ‘dwell’ means to live among. God is too big to be limited to a building, but God wanted to be with 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.**

God knew Solomon would build the temple. In fact, God told David that his son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple. But God also knew that a temple would not be enough for God’s people to live with Him forever. God had a plan to send Jesus into the world so that anyone who trusts in Him will live with God forever. When we place our trust in Jesus, we will be forgiven of our sin and have the Holy Spirit live within us. One day, when Jesus returns, believers will live with God forever. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

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

**SAY** “Let’s review the first three kings of Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. King Solomon was the son of David. Solomon became king over Israel after David died. Last week, we learned that Solomon was young and didn’t have any experience. 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 how God promised 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

**Active listening:** Invite kids to shout, “hooray!” when they hear how God kept His promise.

**Draw it:** Provide each kid with a sheet of paper and a marker. As you read, encourage the kids to draw the temple as the story describes it. This will help them understand that the temple was a real and beautiful place.





## 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** “What did God say He would do if Solomon obeyed God’s commands? [Allow responses.] God said He would live with His people and not leave them. The temple was a beautiful building, and Solomon took great care in building it. But the temple wouldn’t mean very much if God’s people didn’t follow His commands and obey Him. **SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.**

Where was the ark of the covenant placed? [Allow responses.] The ark of the covenant was in the innermost part of the temple. The ark of the covenant represented God’s presence with His people. Not just anyone could come before the ark of the covenant. Only the high priest could enter the innermost part of the temple once a year. The high priest would offer sacrifices for his sin and the sin of the people.

What happened after Solomon gathered all of Israel together? [Allow responses.] When the priests came out of the temple, the glory of the Lord filled the temple! Solomon prayed and reminded everyone of God’s faithfulness to His people. Many years later, God’s promise to dwell with His people would extend beyond a temple made of bronze and gold. Through Jesus, God made the way for the Holy Spirit to live within His people. Today, God calls the bodies of Christians His temples. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “God promised David and Solomon that He would dwell with His people. But because God is holy, sin must be punished by death. God provided His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins and rise again. When we repent and believe in Jesus, God’s presence comes to live in us through the Holy Spirit. If you have any questions, I would love to answer them. ”

(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.)

## 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?



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 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 demonstrating his amazing strength. Large crowds would gather to see these feats of strength, such as clapping his hands together and challenging 32 men to pull them apart or inviting nine 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** “When Solomon feared and obeyed the Lord, he was able to honor God through the building of the temple. Our key passage reminds us that we are not wise on our own. We need God’s help!”

Say the key passage aloud, but omit or change a word. Ask kids to shout, “Uh oh!” when they catch the mistake. Then recite the key passage correctly together. Repeat, inviting kids to lead others in saying the key passage.

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, thank You for reminding us that You promise to live with those who trust in Your Son, Jesus. Help us turn from evil, and guide us to love others with the truth of the gospel. 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. Invite kids to find 1 Kings in their Bibles. Practice finding a verse from chapters 6, 7, and 8.

Consider pointing out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 8:39, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**SAY** “God knows everything about the past, present, and future. God also knows what is in each person’s heart. He knows that our hearts are sinful. He knows we will sin even before we do. He also knows who will repent of sin and turn to Him. Solomon prayed, asking God to hear and forgive His people when they turned to Him and asked for forgiveness. We can ask God to forgive us when we sin too. God made the way for our sin to be forgiven for all time through Jesus.”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “Why wasn’t the temple a permanent place for God to live?”

Remind kids that God is too great and too big to be confined to a building. Discuss how God planned for the Holy Spirit to live in His people so they could experience His presence wherever they are. Tell kids that God is building His people a forever home in the new heaven and earth.

**SAY** “What was the most special part of the temple? Why?”

Share how the innermost part of the temple, where the ark of the covenant was placed, was the most special part of the temple. Tell kids this was also called the holy of holies. Explain how this was the place where God would meet with the high priest once a year. Remind kids that when God would meet with the high priest, he would offer a sacrifice to atone for his sin and the sins of the people.

**SAY** “How can you live with God forever?”

Tell kids that God has made the way for them to live with Him forever through Jesus. Explain how Jesus paid the price for sin by His death on the cross. Remind kids that He rose again and defeated death. Share how anyone who repents and trusts in Him will live with God forever. Encourage kids to ask questions, or invite kids to look at the Gospel Plan Poster.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: AROUND THE WORLD

Before the activity, write the names of different countries on the beach ball using a permanent marker. Gather the kids together in a circle. Start by passing the beach ball to a kid in the circle. When the kid catches the ball, ask him to show you the name of the country his left hand lands on or is closest to. Tell kids that you will point to that country on a map. Consider inviting kids to help you find the country on the map. Discuss how God's people gather together in churches all around the world.

**SAY** “**SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE FOR GOD TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE.** But God had a bigger plan in mind. God sent Jesus to earth so that anyone who trusts in Him will have the Holy Spirit live in them. Now, God is with His people wherever they live or go. God's people gather in churches all around the world, worshiping God together in one Spirit.”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: WHERE DOES IT LIVE?



Form kids into two teams. Invite kids to act out specific animals such as a bird, a bear, a bat, a horse, a pig, a tiger, a dolphin, and so on. As a kid acts out the animal, challenge the kids on her team to shout out where the animal lives. For example, if a kid acts like a tiger, the team would guess “the jungle.” Award points for teams who guess correctly. The team with the most points wins.

**SAY** “God has designed this world for animals to have certain homes. A tiger wouldn't be at home in the ocean, just like a dolphin wouldn't be at home in the jungle. God has made us to be at home with Him. He wants us to experience His love, peace, and rest. God sent Jesus so that anyone who trusts in Him can be forgiven of sin and live with Him forever.”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.