

Unit 12 • Session 3

Solomon Built the Temple

2-3's Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 6–8

STORY POINT:

God's people built Him a temple.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities

(30 MINUTES)



TEACH THE STORY

Large Group

(15 MINUTES)



EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Small Group

(15 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

Key passage heart card, 2 per class
Blocks, 1 set per class (optional)

Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
4 Story boxes
Key passage marker

Small Group Supplies

4 Weather Pictures per group
Bible story picture
Big picture question
Bible story coloring page, 1 per child, crayons
Key passage poster

LEADER Bible Study

When David was king, he wanted to build a temple for God, but God did not allow him to. “When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant ... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Sam. 7:12-13). God said King David’s son would build the temple.

King Solomon began to gather materials to build the temple. He ordered cedar and cypress timbers from Lebanon. He gathered 30,000 men from all of Israel as laborers to excavate stone and prepare the timbers for the temple’s construction.

The temple was impressive. The entire interior was cedar. King Solomon had everything covered with gold. In all, it took seven years for the temple to be completed. Inside the temple was furniture and accessories. (See 1 Kings 7:48-50.)

The time came to dedicate the temple. All of the Israelites gathered in Jerusalem. The priests brought the ark of the Lord to the most holy place, and a cloud filled the house of the Lord. God’s glory filled the temple.

Solomon prayed and praised God for keeping His covenant with David. He recognized that God is not confined to a temple. “Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built” (1 Kings 8:27). Solomon’s prayer and speech was followed by a great offering to God.

The temple was where God met with His people, and it gave God’s people a more permanent place to worship Him. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Jesus changed everything when He died for our sins on the cross. By taking our sin upon Himself, Jesus made the way for sinners to come to God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

The BIBLE Story

Solomon Built the Temple

1 Kings 6–8

Solomon was the king of Israel. God made Solomon very wise. One day, Solomon began to build a temple for God. **Ever since God saved the Israelites from Egypt, God had been with them in a tent. Now God let Solomon build Him a temple.**

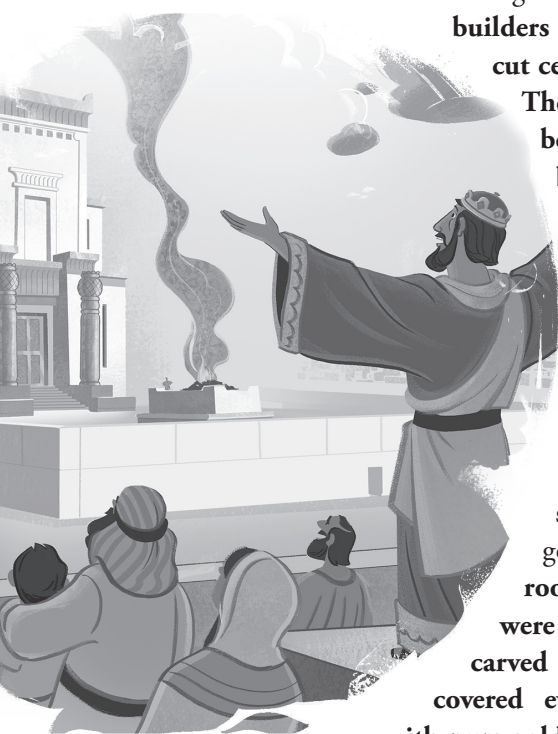
Building a temple was a big job! **Many builders worked on the temple. They cut cedar logs and big stone blocks. They worked hard and laid the bottom of the temple. Then they built the outside of the temple.**

God made a promise to Solomon: “If you obey Me and do what I say, I will keep the promise I made to your father, David. I will live among the Israelites, and I will not leave My people.”

The builders worked for seven years, and they did a very good job! The temple had many rooms, and inside the temple were wood panels with flowers carved on them. King Solomon covered everything inside the temple with pure gold. He hired some men to make bronze furniture for the temple, like bronze bowls

for holding water.

Finally, the temple was ready! Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. **As the priests moved the ark into the temple, King Solomon and the**



leaders offered sheep and cattle to God.

When the priests came out of the temple, a cloud filled it up! God's glory was in the cloud. Solomon said, "Praise God! God promised David that his son would build a temple, and God kept His promise!"

Solomon stretched out his hands and prayed, "There is no God like You!" Then Solomon encouraged God's people to love God and to do what He says. When the people went home, they were happy because God had been so good to them.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- Build with key pictures: As you tell the story, stack the blocks to build a temple.

Christ Connection: The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to guide and help us

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

STORY POINT: God's people built Him a temple.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

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

Opening Activities

Welcome time

[Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.]

· Intro Music

Key passage
card

Practice the key passage

Cut the key passage card into a heart shape. Pass the key passage card to the child on your right. Demonstrate how she may hold the card to her heart while you say it. Keep the card moving around the circle. Retell the story.

SAY • Solomon told the people to love God with all their heart. **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.** When we need wisdom, we can ask Him!

Build together (optional)

Encourage the children to build together with blocks. Aim to create a large structure that requires all of the blocks and cooperation from all of the children. Provide direction as needed to help the group successfully complete the project.

SAY • Great job! In our Bible story today, King Solomon led a whole lot of people to work together on

**LOW
PREP**

· Blocks
· (1 set per class)

building a temple for God. The temple was so big and beautiful, and it took many builders a long time to build!

Match places of worship

Lay the “Places of Worship” cards facedown in a grid on the table. Invite children, one at a time, to turn over two cards in search of a match. If a child is successful, they may keep the pair of matching cards. If not, turn over the cards. Allow another child to take a turn. Continue playing until all matches have been found. Keep the cards faceup for younger preschoolers.

SAY • These are all different places where people gather to worship God. Do you remember this one that looks like a tent? It is called the *tabernacle*, and the tabernacle is where the people of Israel had gathered to worship God ever since they left Egypt. Today we will learn about a new place they built to worship God: the temple!

• “Places of Worship” cards

Transition to tell the story

[*Show the countdown video as preschoolers to move to Large Group.*] Invite preschoolers to stretch out their hands towards heaven and praise God as they move to worship.

• [Video: Countdown](#)

Sing

Sing the key passage song, “Ask God,” and the theme song, “You are Great.”

[“Ask God” song](#)
[“You are Great” song](#)

TEACH the Story



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STORY POINT: God's people built Him a temple.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

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

Introduce the Bible story

[Place a bookmark at 1 Kings 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.]

- Bible
- Bookmark

· CG: Giant Timeline

SAY • How do we know the Bible is true? Because it is God's Word! Today's true Bible story is found in the Book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament part of the Bible. *[Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.]* Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

Watch the Bible story

· Video: "Solomon Built the Temple"

[Show the Bible story video. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.]

· CG: Story point

SAY • **God's people built Him a temple.** The temple was a place where God was with His people.

· CG: Bible Story Picture

[Stack first box]

God gave king Solomon wisdom to lead the people.

[Stack second box]

He helped the builders know what to do.

[Stack the third box]

He provided all the materials they needed, and He filled the temple with His glory.

[Stack fourth box]

When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us. Jesus is our forever friend, ready to guide and help us. God provides everything we need to worship Him, just like He did for the people of Israel!

4 Story Boxes

Practice the key passage

[Place the key passage marker at James 1:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud.]

·Key
Passage
Marker

·CG: Key
Passage

SAY • God gave king Solomon wisdom to build the temple, and He will give us wisdom if we ask Him. God may ask you to do something really big for Him someday, like building a place to honor Him, but you can ask for His help then, too!

Learn the big picture question

·CG: Big
Picture
Question

SAY • I sure do not know how to cut stone, carve flowers into wood, or build bronze furniture. Do you? But God helped the people build Him a temple because God knows how to do everything! ***What does God know? God knows everything.***

Pray

[Pray before dismissing to small group.]

LEADER • Lord, We praise You for being wise and powerful. Thank You for loving us even though we make wrong choices. Help us to love you more each day. Amen.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



Small Group

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

STORY POINT: God's people built Him a temple.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

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

Weather
Pictures
(4 per group)

Study the Weather

Look at different pictures of weather. Ask children if the wind is blowing and how they can tell. Continue with other easily observable weather questions, such as “Is it raining? Is the sun bright?” Encourage preschoolers to explain the reason for their answers.

SAY • Good observations! You can tell the wind is blowing if the leaves on the trees are moving. In our Bible story today, the people could tell that God's glory went into the temple when a cloud filled it! **God's people built Him a temple.** The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to guide and help us. We can tell God is with us by the way we love one another.

Review

God's people built Him a temple. The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to guide and help us.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Bible
Story
Picture
Big Picture
Question
Poster

Transition

Bible Story
Coloring
Page
Crayons
Key Passage
Poster
Big Picture
Question
Poster

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool coloring page for families.