

Unit 12 • Session 3

Solomon Built the Temple

2nd-3rd Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 6–8

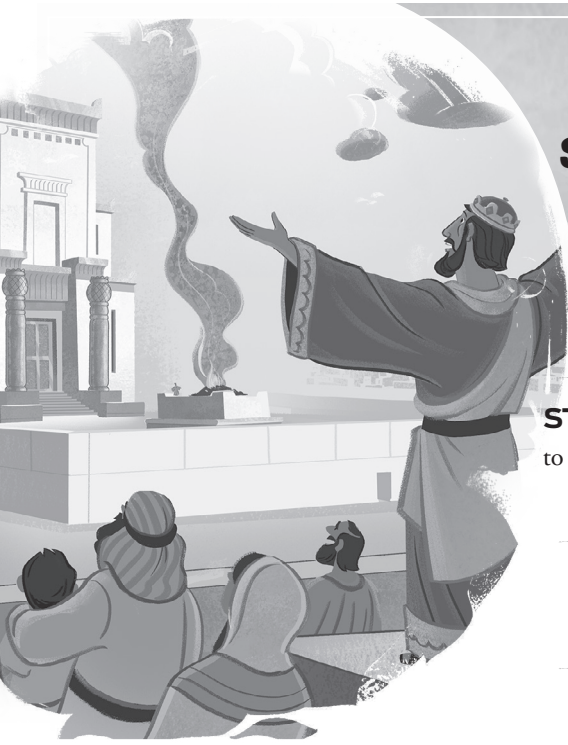
STORY POINT: God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities
(20 MINUTES)



Opening Activities Supplies

"Draw the Temple" activity page, 1 per kid
Pencils and markers

TEACH THE STORY

Large Group
(20 MINUTES)



Large Group Supplies

Bible marked at James 1:5
Lab coat with feathers
Stage decor

APPLY THE STORY

Small Group
(20 MINUTES)



Small Group Supplies

Hula hoop, 1 per group
Stopwatch (optional) Large markers, crayons
"Solomon's Supplies" journal page, 1 per kid

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

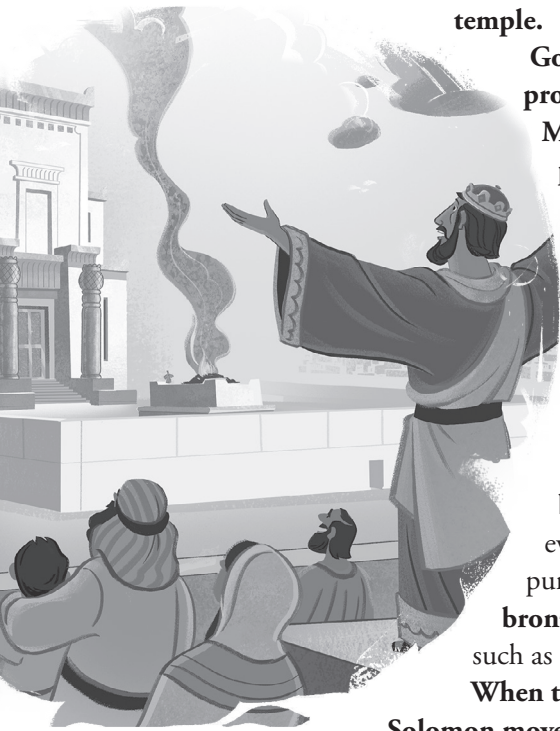
Solomon was the king of Israel after his father, David, died. God made Solomon very wise. **Solomon began to build a temple for the Lord. Solomon ordered thousands of workers to help build the temple.** They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. **They laid a foundation and built the outside of the temple.**

God blessed the temple and promised Solomon, “If you obey My commands, I will keep the promise I made to David. I will live among the Israelites, and I will not abandon My people.”

The temple was built in seven years. It was beautiful! The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with ornamental gourds and flower blossoms. **Solomon overlaid everything inside the temple with pure gold. He hired men to make bronze furnishings for the temple,** such as bronze bowls for holding water. **When the temple was complete,**

Solomon moved the ark of God from its place on Mount Zion to the new temple in Jerusalem.

Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark to the most holy place in the temple, King Solomon and the leaders sacrificed sheep and cattle to the Lord.



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

Solomon stood and prayed with his hands spread out toward heaven. "There is no God like You!" he said. Then **Solomon thought about the future. He knew Israel would sin and make God angry again; so Solomon asked for forgiveness, and he asked God to hear their prayers.**

When Solomon had finished praying, he encouraged the Israelites to love and obey God. The people returned to their homes, joyful because God was good to them.

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 is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

INTRODUCE the Story



Opening Activities

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

STORY POINT: God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

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

Intro Music

Welcome time

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about the biggest building they've ever visited. Where was it? How tall was it?

“Draw the Temple” activity page, 1 per kid
pencils or markers

Activity page

Invite kids to complete “Draw the Temple” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the guide to draw the temple in the grid provided.

SAY • Can you imagine the kind of work required to build a temple? That would be quite a task today; imagine the feat nearly three thousand years ago—when people didn't have modern machines and technology?

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

Large Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

STORY POINT: God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5

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

[Video:](#)
[Countdown](#)

Countdown

[Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story.]

Large Group Game

LEADER • Hello Everyone! It's game time again! I need 4 volunteers - 2 boys and 2 girls. [Choose 4 kids. Try to choose kids that haven't been chosen before.] OK, over here we have the boy's team and over here the girl's team! You each have a big stack of plastic cups. When I say GO, you have to work as a team to stack your cups to look like this!

[CG: Cup Stacking Pyramid Example](#)

You have to make your pyramid look exactly like that picture. The first team to build that without anything falling over is the winner. And if it does fall over, you just have to fix it and keep trying! Any questions? OK, get ready! 3-2-1...GO!

[SFX: Build Me Up Buttercup](#)

More Complex Variant: If you feel that it's not too much, have the teams not only build the pyramid but then have to get all the cups back into one stack and whoever does that first wins.

That was so much fun! Great job stacking. Let's give our volunteers a round of applause as we get ready to worship.

[Song: Alive](#)

Sing

[Song: O Taste & See](#)

LEADER • God loves us and knows all things. Let's stand up and sing to Him. Singing to God is one way we can show that He is important to us.

Introduce the session

[*Leader enters wearing white coat with feathers stuck to it.*]

LEADER • Hello, friends! Welcome back. My name is Professor Peregrine. I'm an ornithologist, which means I'm a bird scientist. I study birds to learn about their behaviors. For me specifically, I try to measure how intelligent different kinds of birds are.

This week, I've been focusing my studies on American cliff swallows. They build large and sometimes complex nests out of mud pellets. Check out this image of one of their homes. Isn't that amazing?

[CG: Cliff swallow nest](#)

In a way, a cliff swallow nest can be kind of like apartment complexes for birds! As more birds crowd into popular nesting areas, sometimes their nests can get close enough to touch or overlap. Soon it looks like rows and rows of swallows all living together.

It really is amazing how these birds learned to build. Obviously, their homes are not as sturdy as buildings made by humans, but the mud and clay mixture that swallows use is similar in some ways to the substances people use to make bricks! How neat is that?

But you know, it makes me think of our Bible story. This week it's about a very important construction project Solomon started as king. It wasn't a nest for birds; it was a temple for God!

Big picture question

LEADER • As we get to our story, don't lose sight of the big picture question and answer: *What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.* That means God will never forget anything, no matter how long ago it happened. He will never miss anything happening right now, and the future will never catch Him off guard. God knows all there is to know about everything that can be known! That's why we can always trust Him. His plans are perfect because they account for every detail.

[CG: Big picture question](#)

Giant timeline

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

[*Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.*]

LEADER • Two weeks ago, we learned that **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** Last week we studied some of what Solomon wrote, learning that **wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.** This week we will learn that another thing Solomon did, besides writing songs and poems, was build a temple for God. Let's get into it!

Watch the Bible story

[*Show the Bible story video "Solomon Built the Temple."*]

[Video: "Solomon Built the Temple"](#)

LEADER • David wanted to build a temple for God. God told David that he would not build a temple, but that his son would. Now we learned about God keeping that promise! God knew exactly when the temple would be constructed because God knows everything.

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

[CG: Big picture question](#)

God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them. Do you think God needs a temple to live in? No, of course not. He reminded David that He didn't need a temple, but He helped His people build it to show them His desire to be with them. The temple was a place they could gather to worship God and learn about Him. It was a place where they could offer sacrifices to cover their sin.

[CG: Story point](#)

So why don't we have a temple today? Well, the truth is, we kind of do! The Bible teaches us that Christians' bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit! Jesus came just as God promised. He is the perfect sacrifice for sin. He died so that we do not have to offer rams, goats, or other sacrifices to cover sin.

[CG: Bible story picture](#)

When we put faith in Jesus—trusting that His sacrifice was enough to cover our sin—the Holy Spirit lives in us, filling us with God's power. In a way, that means that every believer is a temple! We don't need a physical building to be our temple because Jesus is with us wherever we go, day and night.

If you are a Christian, nothing can separate you from God.

Christ connection

LEADER • 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 is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help. We no longer need a place to offer sacrifices, because Jesus' death was enough to cover our sin forever.

Key passage

[Show the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read together James 1:5.]

LEADER • As we study what it means to be wise, it may feel discouraging to realize we lack wisdom. Thankfully, God gave us this key passage! We can always ask God to give us wisdom, and we know that He will!

Pray

[Pray before dismissing to small group.]

LEADER • Lord, We praise You for Your knowledge, wisdom, and power. We praise You because You love us even though we make wrong choices. Help us to have wisdom and see that we need Jesus. Give us faith to trust Him. Use us in Your plan to reach the whole world with the gospel. Amen.

[CG: Key passage](#)

APPLY the Story



Small Group

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

STORY POINT: God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.

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



Working together

Hula hoop,
1 per group

Invite kids to form a circle. Place a hula hoop over one kid's arm and instruct everyone to join hands. Explain that they will need to work together to pass the hula hoop around the circle without letting go of anyone's hand. Keep track of the time it takes to pass the hula hoop around the circle. If your group is small, consider combining with another small group for this activity.

If time allows, invite kids to try again, this time working together to beat the time. If you have a big group, form teams and invite teams to race against each other. Discuss how working together made accomplishing this task easier.

SAY • Working together was helpful to accomplish this task. God's people had to work together to build His temple. Many things that God asks us to do are easier with other people. We best learn how to pray by praying with others. We can best help those in need by working together with people in our church. And we can help more people hear the amazing news of Jesus by helping and supporting other churches in our city.

Journal and prayer

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- 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 any 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?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for the local church and asking God to make kids aware of His presence.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Solomon's Supplies" on the activity page. Kids should check the supplies they think King Solomon needed to build the temple and cross out the supplies they think he didn't need.

· Pencils
· Journal Page
· "Solomon's Supplies"
activity page,
1 per kid