

1st-3rd Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, January 4

UNIT 12 | SESSION 2

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 6-8

MAIN POINT / 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.

CATECHISM QUESTION : Q) What is Justification? A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned. ("Just as if I'd never sinned") (Zec 3:1-5; Rom 3:24-26; 4:5; 8:33; 2Co 5:21; Heb 8:12)

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: PROVERBS 3:7 - "Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil." (ESV)

Preparation

Lesson Context

This Unit: God gave Solomon great wisdom and made him king over His people. Solomon obeyed God and led the people in building the temple. Solomon learned that his own wisdom had limits, but God's wisdom is limitless. Solomon reminds us of our need for Jesus, the sinless King who is true wisdom.

Volunteer Huddle | 8:45 a.m.

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

Prep Room | 8:50 a.m.

- Put out activity pages (in Activity Box) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.
- If you'd like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.

- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you’d like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

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?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them **an Activity Page and markers** (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *Today, we will learn that Solomon built a temple for God to dwell with His people.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the **Rules Poster** (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. **Be kind and respectful:** to your friends and teachers. Raise your hand and wait to be called; speak kindly to one another; use words and actions that build up and do not tear down; etc.
2. **Have a heart of obedience:** Listen to your teachers’ instructions and obey fully, quickly, and joyfully!
3. **Have self control:** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself; keep all chair legs on the ground; no running or rough housing. Do not touch one another; let’s not poke each other, hit, kick, etc.

Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

STACK IT

Before the session, place 10 plastic cups in a pyramid (in Activity Box). 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.*

Lesson | 9:20 am

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out Bibles (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY *Hi, kids! 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.*

As we hear our story, we will see that Solomon built a temple for God to dwell with His people. The word 'dwell' means to live among. We'll learn that God has always desired to live among His people. Let's pray together:

2. Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

SAY: *This month we will start a new catechism question. This one is helping us to understand what salvation is:*

Q) What is Justification?

A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.

When we believe in Jesus, part of what happens is that we are justified before God. God looks at us like he looks at Jesus, the one who never sinned. Because he sees the perfect Jesus in us, we are no longer condemned; we can have eternal life! We can remember this answer this way too: Justified = “just as if I’d” never sinned.

Let’s review all of the catechism questions together:

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of God’s way.

Q) What is righteousness?

A) It is God’s goodness.

Q) Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever sin?

A) No. He was holy, blameless, and undefiled.

Q) What kind of death did Christ die?

A) The painful and shameful death of the Cross in the place of sinners.

Q) What is Justification?

A) It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.

3. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be in the book of 1 Kings. 1 Kings comes after 1 and 2 Samuel and it continues to tell us about Israel’s kings. Let’s find 1 Kings in our Bibles:*

1. *Is 1 Kings in the Old or New Testament?*
2. *Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of your Bibles and look under the Old Testament category to find the book of 1 KINGS. Turn to that page number.*
3. *Once you’ve found 1 KINGS, I would like you to find chapter 8.*

4. Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to **1 KINGS 6** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

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.

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.”

4. Christ Connection

SAY: 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.

Review & Video | 9:30 am

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids* (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom).

Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to 1 KINGS 8:27-30.**

SAY - Let's review a section of scripture from our Bible lesson today. Please turn to **1 KINGS 8:27-30**. *Have a volunteer read the passage.*

1. **Based on what we just read, do you think the temple was big enough to contain God?**
 - a. *No, our passage says that even the highest heavens cannot contain God; he is everywhere! However, God established the temple as a physical place where his people could come and pray to him and offer sacrifices. It was a symbol to them that God was near to them.*
2. **Especially in verse 30, what does Solomon ask God to do?**
 - a. *He asks God to listen to the prayers of his people that are made in the temple. And then, when he hears their prayers, Solomon asks God to forgive them.*
3. **Read JOHN 1:14. The "Word" in this passage is referring to Jesus. What does it say Jesus became and did?**
 - a. *It says that Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. We can think of Jesus as the better "temple!" In Jesus, all of God's fullness could dwell.*

In his prayer, Solomon acknowledges that the fullness of God cannot dwell in a temple. We could get close, but not too close to God. But, John tells us that God, in Jesus, came and dwelt among us. Jesus came near to us, as a baby. God once "dwelt" in a temple, though his fullness could not be contained there. Then, all of God's fullness dwelt on earth in the person of Jesus, And now, God dwells in us through the Holy Spirit if we have believed in Jesus. God did not leave us alone; He came near to be with us.

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse | 9:35 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **PROVERBS 3:7** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil."

- **PROVERBS 3:7**

ERASE A WORD

Print the whole memory verse and reference on the whiteboard. Have the children repeat it aloud several times, then start randomly erasing words, one at a time, and have the children continue to recite it. You can repeat until the whole verse is erased.

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.*

Extra Time Activity

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Provide kids with **play dough** (in Teacher Box), 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** (in Activity Box). Tell kids that the items they sculpted were like some of the items found at the temple Solomon built.

SAY *Today, we learned 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 saw how Solomon took great care to lead workers to build the temple for God's glory.*

Dismissal | 9:50 am

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.



Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.