

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God is worthy of our worship.

BIBLE

Solomon Builds The Temple: 2 Chronicles 5:1–14; James 3:9–12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Whether it's a building, a monument, or something else, the things construction crews build can leave us in awe. This week, we'll hear the story of when Solomon built the temple and people began to worship and give thanks to God. This story reminds us that while we can build awe-inspiring buildings, God is so much bigger than them, and **God is worthy of our worship.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to *Under Construction*! We've been looking at the story of King Solomon, who has been building up his trust and love for God. Today, we'll be looking at one of his actual building projects.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Construction Materials

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to hide wood (popsicle sticks), gold (plastic coins), silver (crumpled aluminum foil), and jewels (beaded necklaces or fake jewels) in your ministry space. Consider taping them to the underside of chairs and sticking them inside books, too. Make sure you have a sample of each item so kids know what to look for. To play, have kids work in teams to find one (or however many you'd like) of each item.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Instead of having kids search the room for the building materials, place the items in a bin for kids to explore at a table. You can hide the items in sand or kinetic sand to increase the sensory component, and make it look more like a construction site.*
- Look at all these materials you've gathered: gold, silver, precious jewels, all the different types of materials Solomon used to build a temple to honor God. Not only that, but he brought skilled builders and artisans into the mix. He wanted to make sure only the best were a part of building something so important!

ACTIVITY | Temple Replicas

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need paper cups, plates, playdough, straws, and whatever else you have on hand. You could even include the materials from last week's "Construction Materials" activity (marshmallows and dry spaghetti). To play, give each team of four to five kids a box of those supplies. Give teams five to ten minutes to build their own version of what they think Solomon's temple looked like. You may show an image [like this](#) to have them try to mimic the look.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Split kids into teams and compete for who can build the tallest balloon tower*

with only using masking tape to hold the balloons together. You can have the teams blow up their own balloons or blow them up beforehand. Consider adding some rules for added fun. The following are some examples. The tower must be free-standing. Taping the balloons to the ground is not allowed. The tower must stand on its own for 10 seconds.

- A lot of building projects start with 3-D models or replicas to show what the finished structure will look like. Can you imagine if your replicas were turned into life-sized buildings?
- In this activity, we used some materials that weren't worth much, but Solomon brought in the most expensive and precious materials to make a place he thought was worthy of God.
- **Did you know "worthy" and "worship" are related words?** When we worship, we are turning our attention to someone who has a lot of worth!

POLL | Worth More Or Less?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare ten objects and show them to kids two at a time. Which object do they think is worth less? Why did they make that choice? For the last question, choose an item that's inexpensive but valuable to you. Here are some objects you could use:
 - Phone vs. laptop.
 - Purse vs. backpack.
 - Necklace vs. earrings.
 - Cup of coffee vs. bottled water.
 - Family photo vs. a ten-dollar bill.
- ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Level this up with preteens to discuss what makes something "worth it." You can talk about how brand names and different materials can drive the value of an item up even between two items that look identical.
- There are some very strong opinions when it comes to what is worth more or less. That last one was tricky! The one worth more to me might cost less, but I consider it more worthy because it has meaning to me.
- In today's Bible story, we'll learn why Solomon built a magnificent temple made up of the finest things. The building might have been worth a lot, but we'll learn a little more about what true worth is.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Chronicles 5:1–14 (Solomon Builds The Temple)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a [sound bite](#) of construction noise playing in the background. Wear a construction hat and anything else to add to the construction vibe. Have your space decorated with caution tape, construction signs, blueprints, traffic cones, and more. This week, feel free to pass out noisemakers at the end to have kids celebrate the building of the temple.
- It's another busy, busy day on the construction site! Construction often takes a very long time ... have you heard the saying, "Rome wasn't built in a day?" Well, that's true of most building projects. The same was true of the temple Solomon built for God.
 - **How long do you think the temple construction took?** It took seven years!
 - The temple was something Solomon's father, David, wanted to build when he was king. Even though God was always with them, the people wanted a place to gather and worship. God told David that his son Solomon would be the one to make this project happen!
 - That day eventually came. Solomon had thousands of people who helped him and had only the best materials brought in. They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. They laid a strong foundation. Then, the inside was covered in gold. The furnishings were made of bronze, and jewels were everywhere! Finally, the temple was complete.

● **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:1.**

- Solomon's dad, King David, prepared silver, gold, and other furnishings to be placed in the temple to honor God. Because of this, Solomon learned a place to worship God was very valuable to his dad.
- Even with all the materials ready, there was still a lot of work to do!

● **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:4–5.**

- They brought in the Ark of God.
- **Does anyone know what the Ark of God is or why it's so important?**
- The Ark—"the Ark of the Lord's covenant"—reminded the people of God's presence. Inside, the priests placed the two tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and reminded the people God was with them.
- The Ark was incredibly special and sacred. It was a reminder that God was with them and wanted to know them. They couldn't just place the Ark anywhere in the temple. The Ark entered the temple's inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. Are you ready to see what they do next?

● **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:11–13.**

- It was a big deal! People got dressed in fine linens and their best clothes. They played instruments and sang—they had a place meant for worshipping God!
- **Why do you think they were doing all this for God?**
- The people believed the temple was where God could be with them here on earth, where God's presence could be with them. They were so happy that the temple was finished and in their midst!

● **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:14.**

- "The glory of the Lord filled the temple of God." Even though we know now that God is always with us, they wanted a place to quiet all the noise around them and hear from God.
- Today, we can worship God anywhere because God is everywhere, but we can also come to church to worship God with others. When we worship together, we see we aren't alone, and we can help each other remember how awesome God is.

- Now get up on your feet and help me cheer for the temple's opening!

BIG IDEA | God is worthy of our worship.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the words of the Big Idea on pieces of large painter's tape and attach them to one side of large cardboard building blocks (like [these](#) or make your own using tissue boxes). Stack them up so that the words are on the back. Create a "wrecking ball" by attaching a beach ball or indoor [sensory ball](#) to the ceiling or high fixture using string and duct tape. Allow kids to swing the ball to knock down the blocks (you can also have kids simply throw the ball). Have kids help you restack the blocks in order of the Big Idea.
- What a build-up to the Big Idea! Let's say the Big Idea together: **God is worthy of our worship.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of A Building Dedication

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, show a short video of a building being dedicated like [this one](#). We always suggest viewing the clip before hand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- **Did you know that people today dedicate buildings to God?** Many churches dedicate the building at the start of construction, and many families even dedicate their homes to God.
 - **Why do you think people dedicate a building to God?**
 - Dedicating a building to God shows that we want to honor God, not only with the building itself but with everything in the building and everything that happens there.
- In the case of Solomon's temple, the people were overjoyed to have a place they could go to meet with God. Nowadays, because of Jesus, we can connect with God anywhere. Of course, gathering in church is an important part of worship, but the Bible tells us that worship can happen anywhere, anytime. It even says our bodies can be temples for God.

- **Knowing this, how can we dedicate ourselves to God?**
- We can dedicate ourselves to God in mind, body, and spirit! We can honor God with what we do, think, and say—in every aspect of our lives, we can worship.
- When we put God first in how we act and think we show that **God is worthy of our worship.**

ACTIVITY | Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to hang a ribbon around your teaching area (this could be an actual ribbon or a paper streamer hung between two chairs or whatever you have available). To begin the celebration, use scissors to cut the ribbon. Have fun music playing in the background, and hand out small treats (juice boxes, small snacks, otter pops, or what works best for your environment).*

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Many kids with disabilities are on low-sugar regimens. When serving the small treats, swap out sugary foods for healthier options, and confirm dietary restrictions with their caregivers in advance.*

- It's time for a celebration! I know today's not the day we are starting or finishing construction on our church, but let's thank God for giving us this space to worship!
 - **What is something you love about our church?**
 - **We can worship God everywhere and anywhere, so why do you think we need churches like this one?**
- Having a place of worship is awesome! We can come together, encourage one another, pray together, learn together. Being in the same place at the same time gives us more chances to experience God's love and share that love with others, beyond the walls of our church.
- When the people gathered together to dedicate the temple, they sang out that God's love endures forever. Even as they celebrated, they knew that God and God's love would outlast the building itself!
- The temple was a reminder that these people were devoted to God and that **God is worthy of our worship.**

SCRIPTURE | James 3:9–12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids close their eyes and listen as you read these verses to them.*
- **Has anyone ever worshipped God in one moment and then been mean to someone or did something wrong soon after?**
- We probably have all done that at some time. We say we love God, but we sometimes forget to show it to those around us. We all can build each other up. But we also all have the capacity to tear each other down. It's our choice.
- This passage reminds us that worshipping God is more than going to church, singing songs, and praying. Worship is about how we live our lives in community with others.
- There was a time when Jesus was unhappy with what was going on at the temple. It was supposed to be a place of worship, but it had become more of a marketplace instead! People were being cheated out of their money, and Jesus had to remind everyone that the temple was for worship, which included caring for each other, too.
- We show **God is worthy of our worship** every day, not just by praising God but also by how we treat one another. If we want to give God our best worship, we have to do so with every part of our lives.

VIDEO | *Under Construction*, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Construction Break!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ring a bell or play an alarm on your phone to pretend you are taking a construction break!*

Invite kids to sit casually around the room and provide a snack if you'd like! For today's sharing and reflection time, use the [image provided](#) of a "Lane Merging" sign as you talk with kids.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Remember that not all your preteens grew up in church and are familiar with the gospel or why we worship God. Even kids who have been at church for a while may not fully understand. Create a safe environment for them to ask questions as they discover why God is worthy of our worship.

- It's time for a construction break! We built up our knowledge of God's words today with the story of how Solomon completed the temple and everyone celebrated together. It was a great sign that everyone wanted to honor God in a special way.
- Signs play a big role in a construction zone. Take the "Lane Merging" sign, for example. Depending on the construction job, one of the lanes of the road has to close and merge with the one next to it.
 - **Why do you think it was important for Solomon to "merge" his love for God with building the temple?**
 - **What do the people's responses tell you about how much they valued the temple?**
 - **Why do you think God is worthy of our worship?**
 - **How can we "merge" the way we worship God with how we live our lives?**
- Solomon wanted to make the place of worship the most beautiful building ever. What would be more beautiful was the worship that people would bring to God there because **God is worthy of our worship**. Not just in a building like Solomon's temple or our church, but all the time.

RESPONSE | Worship Tool Kit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a copy of the [printable](#) for each kid. On each tool, have kids write or draw out different ways they can worship God.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Kids with disabilities love to worship! Create a free-form worship time and allow everyone to move as they please rather than having to follow along with a dance or motions. Give a clear set of boundaries (no running, stay in room, hands to self) and let kids roam around the room to get their wiggles out.
- The people in today's Bible story finally had a permanent place of worship. You and I can worship God in a building too, like at church, but we can also worship God anywhere and in many different ways!
- **What are some ways you can worship God ...**
 - **With your mouth?**
 - **With your ears?**
 - **With your hands?**
 - **With your heart?**
 - **With other people?**
- Write or draw your responses on these construction tools. It's great to have a tool kit of different ways to worship!
- When we learn to worship God in different ways and in different places we show that **God is worthy of our worship**.

MEMORY VERSE | James 1:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

PRAYER

- God, we love to worship you! Remind us to pause in our busy days and worship with our whole lives. You are the most worthy of our attention, love, and worship! Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS:

- **What was the most important thing that was brought into the temple?** *The ark of God.*
- **What did worship look like in and around the temple?** *Singing, dancing, giving thanks to God.*
- **How do we know God was pleased with the people's worship?** *God's glory filled the temple.*
- **Read James 3:10. What do you think "praising God and cursing others from the same mouth" has to do with worship?**

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **What are some ways you love to worship God?**
- **What are some things that may distract us, or keep our minds away, from worship? What can we do about this?**
- **Solomon had the temple built as a place to worship God. Are we restricted to just one certain place to worship? Where can we worship or show our love to God?**

ACTIVITY | Construct-A-Church

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to give each kid an envelope. To make this, invite kids to rip open the flaps gently at the seams. Have them draw themselves worshiping on the inside part of the envelope. Then they can flip the envelope around and design the outside of the building (show an image of your church). Invite them to write the Big Idea on their church. You can also provide construction paper for kids to decorate their envelope with. See a worked example [here](#).*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens think of how they would construct a church in Minecraft or Roblox.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Give each kid five popsicle sticks to color, then help them glue them onto a piece of paper in the shape of a house or church, like [this](#).*
- Aren't you glad we have a place to worship God together? I love it when you're here! Talking about God and learning with you is my favorite. **God is worthy of our worship**, and I love worshiping with you!