

Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

MAIN POINT: God chose Solomon to build a temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from God.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

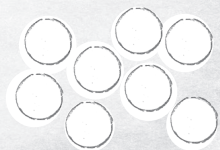
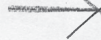
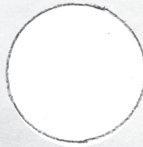
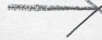
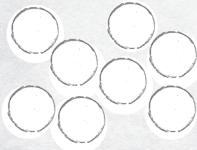
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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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, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My name, 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 priests followed specific instructions to approach God on behalf of His people. 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.



The BIBLE STORY

Solomon Built the Temple

1 Kings 6–8

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

Building a temple was a very big job! King Solomon had many, many men helping build the temple for God. The workers cut cedar logs and big stone blocks. They worked hard and laid the bottom of the temple. They built the outside of the temple.

God was happy with the temple, and He 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 kept working hard to build the temple. They worked **for seven more 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 on the inside of 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! It was time for Solomon to move the ark of God into the new temple. **King Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark and the tent of meeting, King Solomon and everyone who was there sacrificed sheep and cattle**

to God. There were so many sheep and cattle; no one could count them!

When the priests came out of the temple, the temple was filled by a cloud. God's glory was in the cloud.

Solomon said to the Israelites, "Praise God!" He also said, "God promised David that his son would build a temple. God kept His promises!"

Solomon stretched out his hands toward heaven, and he prayed. "There is no God like You!" Solomon said. **Then Solomon turned toward the Israelites and encouraged them to love God and to do what He says.** When the people went home, they were happy because God was good to them.

Christ Connection: God is holy. Only the priests could go into God's special place in the temple, and they had to follow many rules because they were sinful. Jesus took away our sin when He died on the cross. When we know and love Jesus, we talk to God on our own.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Solomon knew a man-made building couldn't contain God. Solomon asked God to hear His people's prayers when they made sacrifices at the temple. (1 Kings 8:45) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

MAIN POINT: God chose Solomon to build a temple.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from God.

Welcome time

- “Wisdom” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect offering at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Something Is Different” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Invite preschoolers to find the differences between the two pictures and circle them on their activity page.

SAY • Do you remember our story in the Bible where David wanted to build a temple for God? God told David that his son would build Him a temple instead of David. Guess what? In today’s Bible story, King David’s son, King Solomon, built a beautiful temple for God. Let’s find out more in our Bible story.

LOW PREP

- white paper
- orange paper
- marker
- scissors (optional)

Follow the cloud and fire

Before the session, draw or cut out cloud and fire images on the white and orange paper, respectively. Select a preschooler to hold the cloud image and walk around the room while the rest of the group follows him. Dim the

lights and select another preschooler to hold the fire image and walk around the room while the rest of the group follows her. Alternate the cloud/lights-on following with fire/lights-dimmed following as time allows. Select a new preschooler to lead each time you switch images.

SAY • For many years, God’s people followed a cloud during the day and fire at night. This was God’s presence leading His people. God’s people always took the tabernacle with them. The tabernacle was a tent. When the cloud or fire stopped moving they set up the tabernacle and stayed there. Now, God was going to give His people a temple to worship Him. The temple would stay in the same place all the time.

Play in a tent

Set up a pop-up tent for preschoolers to play inside. Place a few Bibles for preschoolers to examine as they sit inside the tent. If a pop-up tent is not available, make a tent using a blanket with tables or chairs.

- tent
- blanket (optional)
- Bibles

SAY • King David looked around at his beautiful palace and thought about how the ark of God stayed in a tent, the tabernacle. David wanted to build a temple for God, but God said David’s son would build Him a temple. In today’s Bible story, David’s son King Solomon built a temple for God.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Use the cloud image from the earlier activity for preschoolers to follow as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

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Introduce the Bible story

- interlocking blocks

Before the session, build a structure with interlocking blocks. Display the structure for preschoolers to see.

SAY • Check out this building I built! Today’s Bible story is about building a building, but this wasn’t an ordinary building—it was a temple for God.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- bookmark
- Bible
- “Solomon Built the Temple” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Place a bookmark at 1 Kings in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Who can tell me what makes the Bible the most special book of all? Yes! The Bible is true and has God’s words in it. Today’s Bible story is from 1 Kings.

Show the Bible story video “Solomon Built the Temple” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • King David wanted to build a temple for God, but **God chose Solomon to build a temple.** Solomon built a beautiful temple, but even better than its beauty, God’s glory filled the temple in a cloud. Only

the priests could go into God's special place in the temple, and they had to follow many rules because they were sinful. Now, we don't have to go through a priest to talk to God. Jesus took away our sin when He died on the cross. When we put our trust in Jesus, we talk to God on our own.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. How had God been with His people before the temple? (*in a tent, the tabernacle*)
2. Did it take a few men or many men to build the temple? (*many*)
3. What did God promise Solomon? (*If Solomon obeyed God, God would never leave the Israelites.*)
4. What filled the temple after the priests came out? (*a cloud*)
5. What was in the cloud? (*God's glory*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Remember the answer to our big picture question.

Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from God. King Solomon was a wise king who led God's people to love God and to do what He says.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Proverbs 2:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "The Lord Gives Wisdom."

SAY • Solomon prayed, "There is no God like You!" That is true! Our God is wise, and He alone gives wisdom.

• Key Passage Poster
• "The Lord Gives Wisdom" song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

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• blocks

Build a temple

Invite preschoolers to work together to build a temple-like structure.

SAY • God chose Solomon to build a temple. Building a temple was a very big job! King Solomon had many men helping build the temple for God. The builders worked for seven years, and they did a very good job! Finally, the temple was ready! God's people had a permanent place to worship Him.

Sort farm animals

• plastic farm animals

Set out an assortment of farm animals for preschoolers to sort and play with. Invite preschoolers to sort the animals by type or color. Point out the sheep and cows.

SAY • God chose Solomon to build a temple. When the temple was complete, King Solomon and everyone who was there offered sheep and cattle to God. There were so many sheep and cattle; no one could count them! We do not offer sheep or cattle as sacrifices anymore because we don't need to. Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice for sin when He died on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, we can talk to God directly.

Paint with cloud paint

Mix three parts shaving cream to one part glue in a bowl to create cloud paint. Provide a sheet of yellow construction paper or gold paper for each preschooler. Show preschoolers how to dip a piece of batting in the cloud paint mixture and then place it on their paper to create a cloud image. Encourage creativity. Place the cloud pictures in a safe place to dry.

SAY • God chose Solomon to build a temple. When the temple was complete, the priests moved the ark of God inside. When the priests came out, a cloud filled the temple. God's glory was in the cloud. God wanted to be with His people, and He was!

- yellow construction paper
- gold paper (optional)
- white glue
- white non-menthol shaving cream
- bowl
- spoon
- quilt batting

Tip: Make sure preschoolers keep the mixture away from their eyes and mouths.

Examine wood

Gather small pieces of different kinds of wood for preschoolers to examine. Smooth any edges that could cause splinters. Invite preschoolers to smell the wood, touch the wood, and look at the lines in the wood with magnifying glasses. Show preschoolers how to use sandpaper to sand the wood. If wood pieces are unavailable, gather branches from different kinds of trees.

SAY • God chose Solomon to build a temple. King Solomon gathered special wood to build the temple including cedar and cypress wood. Many, many men worked to build the temple. The temple was a very special place. Only the priests could go into God's special place in the temple, and they had to follow many rules because they were sinful. Jesus took away our sin when He died on the cross and came back to life. When we know and love Jesus, we talk to God on our own.

- wood pieces
- magnifying glasses
- sandpaper (not coarse)

Tip: Stop by a home improvement store and ask for wood pieces left over from cut boards.

Option: Invite preschoolers to paint the wood.

- gold wrapping paper
- tape
- scissors

Cover things with gold

Before the session, cut gold wrapping paper into large sheets. Invite preschoolers to cover the room in gold by using the gold sheets to cover items in the room. Be prepared to provide assistance in using tape to secure the gold paper.

SAY • God chose Solomon to build a temple. King Solomon covered everything on the inside of the temple with pure gold. Only the priests could go into God's special place in the temple, and they had to follow many rules because they were sinful. Jesus took away our sin when He died on the cross and came back to life. When we know and love Jesus, we talk to God on our own.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve crackers and canned cheese for snack. Invite preschoolers to build a building using the crackers for walls and the cheese to connect the crackers. Remind preschoolers that **God chose Solomon to build a temple**. God was happy with the temple, and promised 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.”

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of the temple. Remind preschoolers that we do not have to go to a temple or through a priest to talk to God. When we trust in Jesus to take away our sin, we can talk to God on our own. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, thank You that You want to be with Your people. Thank You for sending Jesus to take away our sin so that we can talk to You on our own. Amen.

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 big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

Journal Page

God All-Wise

Key Passage: Proverbs 2:6

Big Picture Question: Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from God.

Session 1: Solomon Asked for Wisdom

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 3:1-15

Solomon asked God for wisdom.

Session 2: Wisdom for God's People

Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:1-12; 4:10-19

Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

Session 3: Solomon Built the Temple

1 Kings 6-8

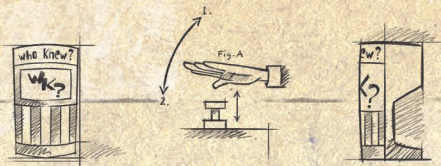
God chose Solomon to build a temple.

Session 4: Solomon's Sin Divided the Kingdom

1 Kings 11-12

God split Israel into two kingdoms.

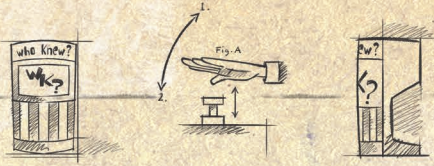




**The LORD gives
wisdom; from
his mouth come
knowledge and
understanding.**

Proverbs 2:6

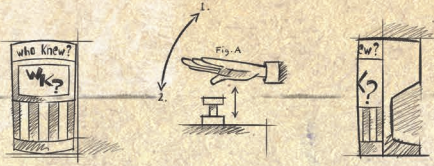




The LORD giveth
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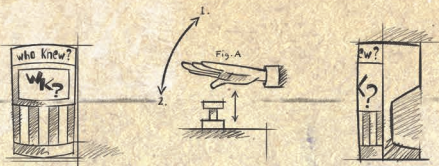




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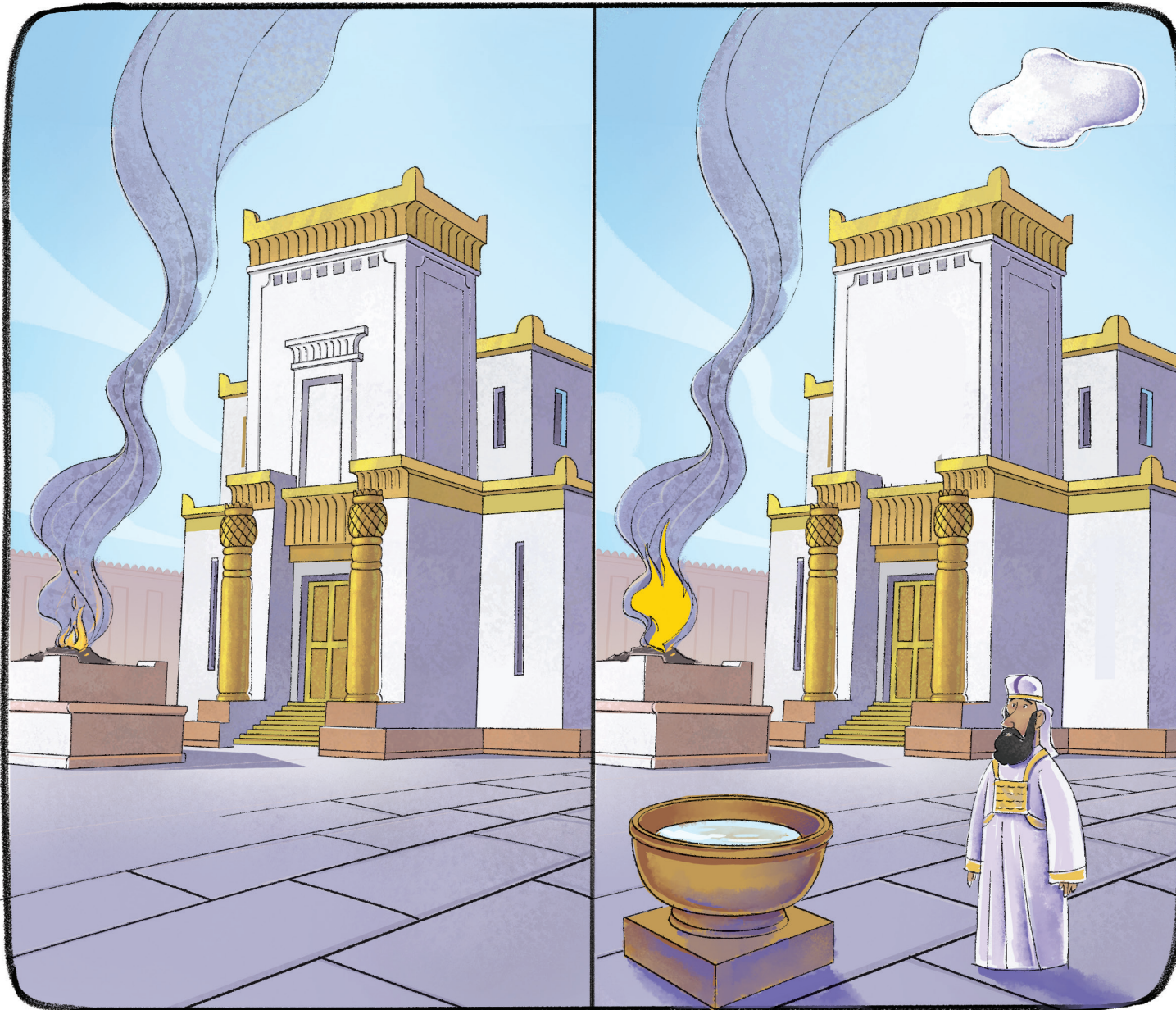




Something Is Different

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Look at the first picture. Circle six things that are different in the second picture.



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from God.

BIBLE STORY:

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

- God chose Solomon to build a temple.
- Building the temple took a long time and a lot of men.
- Solomon prayed and encouraged the people to love and obey God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

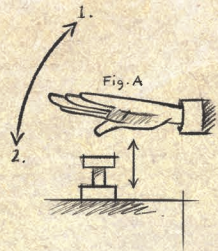
- Tell about a time someone kept a promise they made to you.
- How do you feel when it takes a long time to do something?
- Why can we talk to God on our own now without a priest or a temple?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

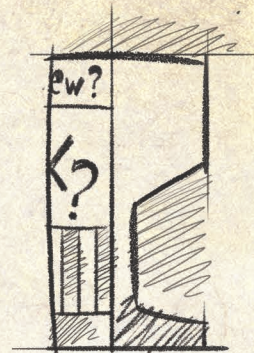
- Build something together as a family such as a puzzle, model rocket, or an interlocking block structure.
- Pray a prayer of dedication for your home that all who enter its doors would know the love of God through Jesus.

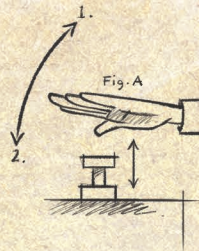
Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 11, Session 3





Where does
wisdom come
from?





Where does wisdom come from?

Wisdom comes
from God.

