Unit 12 • Session 3
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.

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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.
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.
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
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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.

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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Build with key words: Before class, label blocks with key words or pictures from the Bible story. As you tell the story, stack the blocks to build a temple.

• Compare the tabernacle and temple: Display pictures of the tabernacle from a study Bible and then show pictures of Solomon’s temple and its various components.
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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.

Welcome time  
Play a 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 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  
Help preschoolers count the number of building items in each row and write the corresponding number in the blank at the end of each row.

SAY • Good job counting the items on your page! Each of these materials were used in building God’s temple, but the workers used much more than what you see on your page. We will hear all about building the temple in our Bible story today.

Build together  
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...
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**
Print “Places of Worship” on heavyweight paper and cut apart the cards. Lay the 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, she may keep the pair of matching cards. If not, turn over the cards. Allow another child to take a turn. Continue play 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!

**Transition to tell the story**
To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to stretch out their hands towards heaven and praise God as they move to Bible study.
TEACH the Story

SESSION TITLE: Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6–8

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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. Reverently display the open Bible.

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 sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God’s people built Him a temple. The temple was a place where God was with His people. God gave Solomon wisdom to lead the people. He gave many builders the skill to work. He provided all the materials they needed, and He filled the temple with His glory. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to guide and help us. God provides everything we need to worship Him, just like He did for the people of Israel!
Practice the key passage
Before the session, write each word of the key passage on a strip of tape and affix it to an interlocking brick. 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. Help children build up the bricks in order of the key passage.

**SAY** • God gave Solomon wisdom to build the temple, and He gave us wisdom to remember this passage. God may ask you to do something really hard for Him someday, like building a place to honor Him, but you can ask for His help then, too!

Sing the key passage song, “Ask God,” and the theme song, “Greater Than Anything.”

Learn the 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.*

Missions moment
**SAY** • The Mandrell family asked God for wisdom about where to start a church, and God led this Tennessee family to Denver, Colorado. God also showed them something else important—they should not do it alone! God had a surprise for the Mandrell family. Watch the video to see what the surprise was.

Show the “Going West (Part 2)” missions video.

Pray and transition to experience the story

*Wise King Solomon*
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Study the weather
Look through a window or use a walking rope to take the children outside, if possible. Ask them if the wind is blowing and how they can tell. Continue with other easily observable weather questions, such as “Did it rain while we were in class? Is the sun bright enough to make shadow puppets?” 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 in church by the way we love one another.

Know where to go
Establish different parts of the room as different places in town, such as the grocery store, post office, school, and hospital. You may choose to post pictures from the Internet or of familiar places in your town.
Gather preschoolers in the center of the room and call out a task. Children should move to the part of the room representing the place they would go for that task.

**SAY** • You know where to go to get things done! Do you know where God’s people went to worship Him in our Bible story today? That’s right: the temple! **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 worship Him at church, home, or anywhere else in town!

**Pretend to be construction workers**

Set out construction clothes and tools in the blocks area, such as hard hats, work vests, tool belts, toy hammers, and saws. Invite children to dress up and pretend to work on a construction site.

**SAY** • **God’s people built Him a temple.** Building a temple was a big job! Many builders worked on the 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.

**Practice cutting**

Show preschoolers how to cut foam using dental floss. First, lay a foam block on top of a piece of dental floss that is longer than the block. Next, press one hand down on the block to keep the floss in place. Then, pull up on a free end of the floss to make a cut. Set out drinking straws for
preschoolers to cut with scissors. Allow children to practice cutting their own “stone” and “logs.” Then help children stick their straws into their blocks to build a miniature temple model.

**SAY • God’s people built Him a temple.** The builders 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. 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.

**Work together**  
Choose two children to hold opposite ends of a tablecloth. Place a sponge ball in the center. Direct them to try to bounce the ball on the tablecloth without the ball hitting the floor. (This will not be possible.) Invite children, one at a time, to assist in the task until the group is able to bounce the ball without it falling off the tablecloth. If they are not already, ask all preschoolers to join in. This time instruct children to count to three repeatedly and bounce the ball on the count of three. Work together as a team to complete the task.

**SAY •** Working together was the only way we could bounce the ball and keep it on the cloth. That reminds me of how God’s people built Him a temple by working together. That also reminds me of the Mandrell family. God gave the Mandrells wisdom to ask for help to start a church in Denver, Colorado. Working together to tell others about Jesus is a wise decision.
Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve celery sticks and cheese cubes for snack. Suggest these remind you of the cedar logs and stone blocks the builders used to build the temple. **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.

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

1. Who led God’s people to build the temple? (Solomon)
2. How many years did the builders work on the temple? (seven)
3. How did God’s glory fill the temple? (in a cloud)
4. Where did God’s people go to make sacrifices and worship God? (the temple)
5. Do we have to go to a temple in Israel to worship God today? (No, Jesus is always with us!)

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

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.