

Lesson 87

Solomon Builds God's Temple

Solomon fulfilled David's desire when he completed the temple in Jerusalem.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and tell God thank you.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who is in control of all things, even when we have to wait a long time?
God.
What word means God is in control of everything? Sovereign.
When we know we've sinned, what should we do? Confess our sins.
What is the beginning of wisdom? The fear of the Lord.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

Be sure to pray with your students and take requests if time allows.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

In our last lesson, we read about David's son who became the next king of Israel.

What was his name? King Solomon.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him he'd give him whatever he asked for. What did Solomon want? Wisdom.

Wisdom helps us know what's right and wrong. God's wisdom shows us the best way to do things so we can obey God.

Refer to Lesson 86 Flip Chart. God made Solomon the wisest man who ever lived and blessed him with riches and honor. We saw how Solomon used his wisdom in the case of the two women who were fighting over a baby. He figured out which woman was the real mother.

Refer to Lesson 82 Flip Chart. We learned about the promises God gave to King David. God said David's son would be king and that he would build a temple. Solomon was the son who built the first temple for God in Jerusalem.

We're going to talk about that building project today. The Bible tells us a lot about the temple. We know it was very beautiful.

Have pictures of buildings from books or the Internet ready.
I have some pictures of beautiful buildings I want to show you. Show pictures of buildings and discuss what makes them beautiful.

The Temple and the Tabernacle

God has given people creativity to make beautiful things, and the temple did turn out to be a very lovely place. The temple would be God's house, a permanent building where people could come to worship God and offer sacrifices to him.

Permanent means something that will last for a very long time. The temple was built with stone and wood. It would help the people remember God. They could come to the temple and offer sacrifices to God and take time to worship him.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Before the temple was built, the Israelites worshipped God in the tabernacle. The main part of the tabernacle was a tent that could be taken down and moved. It wasn't permanent like a building. It was made of goat skins, fabric, and wooden poles and had beautiful furnishings inside, like a golden lampstand, an altar for sweet-smelling spices, and a golden table for the priests' bread. It was a place that reminded the people that God was with them.

But many years later, King David thought God deserved much more than a tent, so he began to collect things for his son Solomon to use to make a strong building for God.

Have jewelry, bucket/milk container, and cedar wood ready.

Show jewelry. These are pieces of jewelry made from gold and silver. Some of them have pretty stones. David collected lots of gold, silver, and gem stones to help make the temple beautiful for the Lord.

Refer to Flip Chart. God told David what the temple should look like, and then David passed the instructions on to his son Solomon. Many of the things that were in the tabernacle had special meanings, so God also wanted them in the temple. There were two special rooms called the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Inside these rooms were the ark of the covenant, the altar of incense, and not just one, but 10 lampstands and 10 tables for special bread.

Outside the temple, God wanted a bronze basin where the priests would wash, only this one was much bigger than the basin in the tabernacle. It was so big, they called it "The Sea." It was like a huge round bowl that could hold about 12,000 gallons of water!

Show gallon bucket or milk container. This bucket/milk container holds one gallon of water/milk. Imagine if we had 12,000 of these! That's how much water was in this basin called "The Sea."

Show cedar wood. Have students smell it if it's fragrant. Inside the temple, the walls were made from wood called cedar. Cedar can have a pretty red color and often has a sweet smell. The doors and walls were decorated with carvings of angels, palm trees, and flowers. But that's not all—just about everything was covered in shiny gold!

How long do you think it took Solomon and his servants to build this beautiful building and all the special things in it? Allow guesses.

It took seven years to finish building the temple. Now the people had a permanent place to worship the Lord.

The Temple and God's Presence

It's important to worship God because he is our Creator and our Savior. But God didn't want the people to just come to the temple once in a while then go home and forget about him. God spoke to Solomon and said that if the people would obey his commandments and walk in his ways then he would stay with them and would not leave them.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When the temple was finally finished, the priests brought the ark of the covenant inside while the people praised and worshipped God and offered sacrifices to him.

How many of you think God was pleased with the beautiful temple?
Show of hands.

1 Kings 8:10–11

Let's find out what God thought of the temple. Listen to 1 Kings 8:10–11. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read the verses.

What filled the house of the Lord? A cloud.

Wow! God filled up the temple with a cloud, and the priests couldn't do their work inside.

What did this cloud mean? It was the what of the Lord? It was the glory of the Lord.

The Lord used a cloud to show that he was pleased with the temple and that he would stay there with his people. The Israelites could now come to this place to praise and worship God.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God also used the temple and all the specially made furnishings as a picture of things that would happen later. For example, the bronze altar was where the priests offered animal sacrifices to cover the sins of the people. God used these sacrifices to point to Jesus.

You see, the priests had to offer sacrifices over and over again for the people's sins. But when Jesus died on the cross, he was the perfect sacrifice to God. He only had to die one time to cover all sin. Now all

who believe in Jesus, turn from their sin, and put their trust in him will be saved.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

In our last lesson, we read about David's son who became the next king of Israel.

What was his name? King Solomon.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him he'd give him whatever he asked for. What did Solomon want? Wisdom.

Wisdom helps us know what's right and wrong. God's wisdom shows us the best way to do things so we can obey God.

Refer to Lesson 86 Flip Chart. God was pleased that Solomon asked for something that would help him be a good king. God made him the wisest man who ever lived and blessed him with riches and honor. Solomon used his wisdom to judge the people. We saw this in the case of the two women who were fighting over a baby. Solomon figured out which woman was the real mother.

Refer to Lesson 82 Flip Chart. Now let's think back to what we learned about the promises God gave to King David. God said David's son would be king and that he would build a temple. Besides becoming a king with great wisdom, Solomon also built the first temple for God in Jerusalem.

We're going to talk about that building project today. Since the Bible tells us a lot about it, we can figure out what this temple looked like. We know it was very beautiful.

Have pictures of buildings from books or the Internet ready. I have some pictures of beautiful buildings I want to show you. Show pictures of buildings and discuss what makes them beautiful.

The Temple and the Tabernacle

God has given people creativity to be able to make things that look beautiful, and the temple did turn out to be a very lovely place. The temple would be God's house, a permanent building where people could come to worship God and offer sacrifices to him.

What does it mean to be permanent? Allow discussion.

Permanent means something that will last for a long time. The temple was built with stone and wood. It was a big building that was meant to stand strong for years and years.

This temple would help the people remember God. It would be a permanent place in Jerusalem where people could come and offer sacrifices to God and take time to worship him. Before the temple was built, where did the Israelites go to worship God? Do you know? The tabernacle.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, he led the people through the wilderness to the promised land. But while they were traveling, the Israelites couldn't stop and build a building for worship, so God told them to make the tabernacle.

The main part of the tabernacle was a tent that could be taken down and set up wherever the Israelites camped. It was made of materials like goat skins, fabric, and wooden poles. It had beautiful furnishings inside, like a golden lampstand, an altar for sweet-smelling spices, and a golden table for the priests' bread. It was a special place that reminded the people that God was with them.

But many years later, David thought God deserved much more than a tent, so he began to collect things for his son Solomon to use to build a temple for God.

Have jewelry, bucket/milk container, and cedar wood ready. Show jewelry. These are pieces of jewelry made from gold and silver. Some of them have pretty stones. David collected huge amounts of gold, silver, and lovely stones to help make the temple beautiful for the Lord.

Refer to Flip Chart. God told David what the temple should look like, and then David passed the instructions on to his son. Some of the things that were in the tabernacle had special meanings, so God also wanted them in the temple. There were two special rooms called the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Inside these rooms were the ark of the covenant, the altar of incense, and not just one, but 10 lampstands and 10 tables for bread.

Outside the temple, God wanted a bronze basin where the priests would wash, only this one was much bigger than the basin in the tabernacle. It was so big they called it "The Sea." It was like a huge round bowl that could hold about 12,000 gallons of water!

Show gallon bucket or milk container. This bucket/milk container holds one gallon of water/milk. Imagine if we had 12,000 of these! That's how much water was in this basin called "The Sea."

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How long do you think it took Solomon and his servants to build this beautiful building and all the special things in it? Allow guesses.

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The Temple and God's Presence

It's important to worship God because he is our Creator and our Savior, and he deserves our praise. But God didn't want the people to just come to the temple once in a while then go home and forget about him.

1 Kings 6:11–13

Let's read what God told Solomon. Listen carefully to these verses in 1 Kings 6:11–13. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read the verses.

Who was talking to Solomon? Verse 11. The Lord.

The Lord said Solomon and the people needed to keep all of God's what? Verse 12. Commandments.

Who would dwell in the temple with the people of Israel? Look at verse 13. The Lord.

God said that if the people would obey his commandments and walk in his ways, like David did, then God would stay with them and would not leave them.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When the temple was finally finished, the priests brought the ark of the covenant and placed it in the room called the Most Holy Place. Outside, the people praised and worshipped God and offered many sacrifices to the Lord—so many that they couldn't be counted!

How many of you think God was pleased with Solomon and all the work the people did? Show of hands.

1 Kings 8:10–11

Let's see what God did next. Listen to 1 Kings 8:10–11. Read the verses.

What filled the house of the Lord, the temple? A cloud.

The priests couldn't do their work inside because of the cloud. What did this cloud mean? It was the what of the Lord? It was the glory of the Lord.

The Lord used a cloud to show that he was pleased with the temple and that he would stay there with his people. The Israelites could now come to this place to praise and worship God.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God also used the temple and all the specially made furnishings as a picture of things that would happen later. For example, the bronze altar wasn't as beautiful as some of the other things, but it was very important. That's where the priests offered animal sacrifices to cover the sins of the people. God used these sacrifices to point to Jesus.

You see, the priests had to offer sacrifices over and over again for the people's sin. But when Jesus died on the cross, he was the perfect sacrifice to God. He only had to die one time to cover all sin. Now all who believe in Jesus, turn from their sins, and put their trust in him will be saved.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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