



Solomon Builds God's Temple

7

Key Theme

- God is worthy of our praise.

Key Passages

- 1 Chronicles 28:10–12, 28:19; 1 Kings 6:1, 6:9–14, 8:10–13

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Compare the Tabernacle and the Temple.
- Explain the importance of God's Temple to Israel.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will place bookmarks at 1 Chronicles 28 and 1 Kings 6 and 8. Students will practice the memory verse by unscrambling the words on the activity sheet and then reciting the verse to each other or to the class.



Activity 1: Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes

page 5

Students will complete the Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

page 6

Solomon built the Temple according to God's design, which was handed down to him from David. Upon completion, the Lord descended and His glory filled the Temple. He was pleased to dwell there among His people.



Activity 2: Tabernacle or Temple?

page 10

Students will sort description strips depending on what they describe—the Tabernacle, the Temple, or both.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO



COME ON IN

- Cut paper into strips for each student to mark today's study passages in 1 Chronicles 28 and 1 Kings 6 and 8.
- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Memory Verse Poster
- Paper strips
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S TEMPLE CLASS NOTES

- Print one Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes
- Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Temple Image from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Print one Ark of the Covenant Image from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- One Temple Image for each student
- Ark of the Covenant Image for your use during the lesson



TABERNACLE OR TEMPLE?

- Print and cut one set of Tabernacle or Temple? Description Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM for each team. Place in envelopes.
- Print one Tabernacle or Temple? Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Set of 12 Tabernacle or Temple? Description Strips for each team in envelopes
- Tabernacle or Temple? Teacher Guide



Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

You might be able to imagine how David felt. He was living in an opulent palace as king while God's presence was in a tent that was moved from place to place (2 Samuel 7:1–7). He wanted to honor God by building a Temple where God could be worshiped. God had other plans—David's son Solomon was to build the Temple (2 Samuel 7:12–13). David had shed too much blood in too many wars. Because of this, God did not want him to build His Temple (1 Chronicles 22:7–8). However, David did have a part in the building of the Temple. He collected the wealth in gold, silver, bronze, and timber needed to build the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:14–18). God gave David the understanding and instructions in writing on how to build the Temple, and David passed the plans on to Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:11–19).

Like the plans for the Tabernacle God gave to Moses, the instructions that David received from God described in amazing detail every pattern and design to be included in the construction of the Temple and its fixtures. Take a few minutes, right now, to read through 1 Kings 6 and 7:13–51. Imagine yourself walking through this majestic building and examining all of the ornate details described. How would you feel standing in a place that was designed by God for His own worship?

The Tabernacle was temporary and portable. It was used for worship by the Israelites while they were wandering in the desert and for another 440 years after that. The Temple, however, was a permanent structure built atop a mountain (1 Kings 6). All of the details of the Temple, from the towering pillars in the front to the large cherubim standing in the inner sanctuary, pointed to a God who was majestic and worthy of praise. Stone walls replaced the fabrics and skins that composed the Tabernacle, and the interior was paneled with the finest cedar and sculpted with exquisite reminders of God's providence. Rather than one table and lampstand, the Temple had ten of each made of solid gold (1 Kings 7:48–49; 2 Chronicles 4:8). The altar of incense, also made of solid gold, stood outside the doors to the Most Holy Place. The Temple was a constant reminder that God's holiness and majesty demanded a very specific pattern of worship.

Imagine the splendor of the massive rooms, their walls completely covered with gold, carvings, chains, pomegranates, and palms. The light from the ten lampstands would have danced around the room in brilliant splendor. But that was not so in the Most Holy Place—the only light there would have come from the presence of God dwelling above the Ark of the Covenant.

When the Temple was finally dedicated, the Ark of the Covenant was put in place in the shadow of the wings of the cherubim, containing only the two tablets of the law given to Moses (1 Kings 8:6–9). After the priests had placed the Ark, God's presence was seen as the cloud of His glory filled not only the space above the mercy seat but also the entire Temple (1 Kings 8:10–11). God was pleased to dwell among His people in this Temple.

For now this would be the center of worship for the Jews. Here, they would celebrate the feasts, offer their gifts and sacrifices to God, fulfill the national sacrifice on Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement), and worship God with songs of praise and thanksgiving. Sadly, all of this came to an end 420 years later when God sent Nebuchadnezzar's army to sack Jerusalem in 588 BC because of Israel's sin. The Babylonians leveled the Temple, taking its great wealth as a trophy back to Babylon (2 Chronicles 36:17–19).

So, despite all of the pageantry and majesty of this first Temple, it would not last forever. In fact, a second Temple would be built to worship God in Jerusalem—the Temple that existed during Jesus's ministry and that was destroyed in AD 70. But God does not demand ornate temple worship today. Jesus made this point clear when He spoke to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. He told her plainly that the place of worship would no longer be in Jerusalem, but true worshippers—those who worship God through His Son, the Savior Jesus Christ—would worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:20–24). In fact, the New Testament teaches that we—the church, Christ's body—are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Ephesians 2:19–22).

So, rather than trekking to Jerusalem, Christians are privileged and invited to approach God's throne of grace with great boldness (Hebrews 4:14–16). Because of Jesus's death on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead, all believers may offer prayers directly to God and receive the grace and mercy He promises. What a glorious truth to share with the whole world!

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Four hundred eighty years after the Israelites left Egypt (1 Kings 6:1), Solomon began building the Temple. The foundation was put in place in the fourth year of his kingship and the work was completed seven years later (1 Kings 6:37–38). The Temple was constructed of the finest stone. Lumber was imported from around the region, and the finest craftsmen were employed in the work. Nothing less would be worthy of use in the Temple of the Most High God.

Many critics of the Bible suggest that there is no way that Solomon could have amassed so much wealth. Just the amount of gold needed to plate all of the walls and ceilings of the Temple is staggering, and that is not to mention the tables and lampstands. The amount of bronze for the pillars, tools, and other furnishings was so vast that its weight was not even recorded (1 Kings 7:47). Skeptics reject the Bible as a source of truth and as a revelation from God, so they naturally discount things they think are absurd. But that is just the point—it is just their opinion. They have no evidence to support their claims apart from their own conjecture.

But those of us who believe the Bible is God's infallible Word can simply turn there and read that God gave Solomon both riches and honor that exceeded any other king (1 Kings 3:13). In addition to that, when

we consider the friendship between David and Hiram of Tyre (2 Samuel 5:11; 1 Kings 5:1), the treasures that David intentionally stored up during his reign (1 Kings 7:51), and the opulent gifts given to Solomon by the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:10–12), we see that there was enough wealth at Solomon's disposal to accomplish the task. God wanted the Temple built—and He orchestrated history so that the supplies would be available when the time came. His sovereign hand was at work to supply everything needed to fulfill His plans.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Holy God, I worship you now as Savior and Lord. What a thrill to see your promise of the Temple fulfilled through Solomon in this lesson. What joy the Israelites must have felt as they watched your Spirit fill the Temple with glory. And now you dwell in every Christian. And rather than bringing my sacrifices and offerings to a priest, I may come directly to you! Help me to share this glorious truth to my class this week. I am your vessel. Glorify yourself in me.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will mark their Bibles at 1 Chronicles 28 and 1 Kings 6 and 8 with strips of paper.
- They will recite the memory verse after they unscramble the words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. Students should unscramble the letters of the missing words and then recite the verse to you or another student. Each week the verse will get harder to unscramble. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes for each student
- Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to

work ahead. Fill in the blanks as we come to them. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

After filling in each point on the class notes have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what the Temple was like, how it was built, and why it was so important to Israel.

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

While David was still king, he wanted to honor God by building a magnificent, permanent Temple to the Lord. However, God had other plans, as He often does. God's plan was that Solomon, David's son, would build His Temple. And after David died, Solomon became king. Soon, he began to build a house—the Temple—for the Lord in Jerusalem where God's glory would shine, and where He would be worshipped by His people.

Even though David did not physically build the Temple, he did have a part in its building. He raised the money for the Temple and encouraged the people to offer their wealth and treasures so the Temple could be built. David was responsible for gathering all the materials necessary to begin construction. When everything needed for the building of this spectacular Temple had been collected, David and the people rejoiced greatly. Our memory verse for the next few weeks shows the praise that David and the people offered up to God when they knew the Temple was soon to be built. Let's read the verse together a few times. *Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 from the Memory Verse Poster.*

So, the materials had been gathered, and construction on the Temple was about to begin. What was it supposed to look like? Where did Solomon get the plans for God's holy Temple?

Let's read 1 Chronicles 28:10–12 together to find out. Before we start, remember that in these verses, King David is speaking to his son Solomon. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

1 Chronicles 28:10–12

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

- ? Remember, David was talking to Solomon in verse 10. What did he say to his son? *The Lord has chosen you to build the sanctuary.*
- ? Look at #1 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Solomon.*
- ? What advice did David give Solomon at the end of 1 Chronicles 28: 10? *Be strong and do it.*
- ? What did David give to Solomon? *1 Chronicles 28:11. Plans for the sanctuary.*

Yes. David was giving Solomon the plans for this grand Temple—God's sanctuary. It was to have vestibules, houses, treasuries, upper chambers, inner chambers, the mercy seat, and lots of wonderful, beautiful things dedicated to the Lord God.

? So David knew the plans and he gave them to his son Solomon. But where did David get them? *Allow discussion.*

Someone read 1 Chronicles 28:19 for me. *Assign a reader.*

? David was talking about the plans he had for the Temple. Who made David understand what he was to do? *The Lord.*

? The Lord gave the plans to David who passed them on to his son, Solomon. And David collected all the money and materials needed to build the Temple. So, what is the answer to #2 on your class notes? *The Lord.*

1 Chronicles 28:19

Discover the Truth

God did not want David to build the Temple. But David did encourage the people to give willingly of their goods to build it. And God also gave the very specific plans for the Temple to David. David faithfully passed them down to his son Solomon. God's promise to David that his son would be king and build the Temple was about to happen. And we knew it would, because God always keeps His promises! He is faithful. *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.*



FAITHFUL

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

READ THE WORD

Let's see what happened next. Turn to 1 Kings 6:1. *Choose a student to read 1 Kings 6:1.*

1 Kings 6:1

EXAMINE THE WORD

Everything was in place for the Temple to be built. And the building began! Look at the text and you will be able to answer the questions.

Observe the Text

? How long had the children of Israel been out of the land of Egypt? *1 Kings 6:1. 480 years.*

? Who began the building of the Temple? *Solomon.*

God was very specific to have the design of the Temple included in the Bible. We can tell pretty much what it looked like. Take a look at the Temple image on this handout. *Pass out the Temple Image from the Resource DVD-ROM to each student.*

? Can you see the different areas within the Temple, and different items in the Temple? Tell me what you see. *Bronze Altar, Vestibule, Sanctuary or Holy Place, Altar of Incense, Inner Sanctuary or the Most Holy Place, Ark of the Covenant, the curtain.*

What else does the Bible tell us about this Temple? Let's read 1 Kings 6:9–14. Turn there in your Bibles. *Choose students to read 1 Kings 6:9–14.*

? What kind of wood is mentioned in 1 Kings 6:9–10? *Cedar.*

➤ Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster, pass out the Temple Images to the class, or you may want to get images of the Temple and Ark of the Covenant from the internet or out of a Bible.

1 Kings 6:9–14.

Solomon used a lot of cedar wood to build this Temple.

- ? Who is speaking in 1 Kings 6:11? *The Lord.*
- ? Who is the Lord speaking to? *Solomon.*
- ? Who would dwell in the Temple with the people of Israel? *1 Kings 6:13. The Lord.*

Complete #3 on your class notes. *The Lord.* The Lord was telling Solomon that if the people continued to walk in His ways, like David did, then He would dwell with them and would not forsake them. The Lord would now dwell in this Temple being built. But the people would have to remain faithful and obedient to God. God demanded that they obey, glorify, and worship only Him.

Discover the Truth

The Temple was finally built—after 480 years of God’s glory dwelling in a mobile tent. Now they finally had a permanent place to worship God. However, this Temple did not guarantee that God would always be with them. The Lord’s message to Solomon was that His presence would only remain if they continued to obey, glorify, and worship only Him.



READ THE WORD

The Bible gives so many details about the building of God’s Temple. God tells us exactly how big it was, what it was made of, all the gold used, the carvings of cherubim (angels), palm trees, and flowers. Cedar wood and Olive wood were used, the doors were carved, bronze pillars were set in place, the basins were bronze, and the list goes on and on. This was truly a magnificent place designed by God. God was to be honored and worshipped here. But, if you remember, in the Tabernacle that Moses built—the mobile worship center—there was a special place for the Ark of the Covenant.

- ? Does anyone remember what the ark was? Moses kept it in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle. *Allow for answers.*

The ark was a special box or chest that God had the Israelites build when they left Egypt many years before this—when they were wandering in the desert. The ark was made of wood with gold all around the outside. *Show the Ark of the Covenant Image to the students from the Resource DVD-ROM.*

God commanded the people to keep the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments in the ark. The ark could only be approached once

a year by the High Priest who made a sacrifice and sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat of the ark to get atonement or forgiveness for the people's sins. This could only be done once a year, but it had to be done every year. And the ark was the only place the Israelites could come to have their sins covered.

When Solomon finished the permanent Temple, he brought the Ark of the Covenant and put it in the special place, the Most Holy Place, of the Temple. The people were so happy! They praised and worshipped God. Many sacrifices were made to the Lord. The priests took the ark into the Holy Place, and God made His presence known in a spectacular way.

? Look at #4 on your class notes. Now will you answer that? *The Ark of the Covenant.*

Now turn to 1 Kings 8:10–13. Let's read that. *Read the passage aloud or assign readers.*

1 Kings 8:10–13

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? How did the Lord make Himself known? What filled the house of the Lord? *1 Kings 8:10. A cloud.*
- ? What did this cloud mean? *1 Kings 8:11. It was the glory of the Lord filling the house of the Lord.*
- ? Solomon remembered something about the Lord. What was it? *1 Kings 8:12. He would dwell in a dark cloud.*

Discover the Truth

God's glory came in a dark cloud. The Temple was full of the glory of the Lord! Solomon had built the Temple and God finally had a permanent place. God had commanded how it was to be built and the people obeyed. He was pleased with the Temple. He would now dwell with His people there. And the ark was set in the Most Holy Place. The people would now come to this place—to this permanent Temple—to praise and worship the holy God.

- ? How will you complete #5 on your class notes? What filled the Temple? *Have students complete #5 on their class notes: God's glory.*
- ? And #6 on your class notes? How was God's glory seen in the Temple? *A dark cloud.*





Tabernacle or Temple?

MATERIALS

- Tabernacle or Temple? Description Strips in envelopes for each team
- Tabernacle or Temple? Teacher Guide

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into teams of 3 or 4. Print and cut one set of Tabernacle or Temple? Description Strips for each team. Teams will sort through their strips and separate them into three piles based on the description—the Tabernacle, the Temple, or both. Time the teams to make it more challenging and exciting. When they have sorted the strips according to which structure they refer to (or both) review the distinctives and the similarities by allowing students to read the strips and explain how they have classified them.

God dwelt in the Tabernacle and the Temple at different times during the history of the Israelites. There were very distinct differences between the two dwelling

places, and some similarities. Each team will get a set of 12 strips describing the Tabernacle, the Temple, or both structures. Quickly sort them out according to what they describe—the Temple, the Tabernacle, or both. Raise your hands when you are finished. *Have students read the descriptions and tell how they classified them.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Israelites worshipped God in the Tabernacle first. God led them through the wilderness, and this temporary Tabernacle went with them. Then God had Solomon build the Temple for worship.

Now there was a permanent place where they could worship God.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God had commanded Solomon to build this beautiful Temple for His worship. It was not like the Tabernacle of the desert—made of tents and poles and moved from place to place as God moved the people. This was to be a permanent Temple. This was a grand Temple where God's glory would appear in Israel permanently. This would now be the place the people would come to worship the Holy God of Israel.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Notice the bronze altar in your Temple Image? That's where the priests would offer up the animals to God. The blood of the animals would serve to cover the sins of the people. Take a look at our Scarlet Thread Poster. The Temple worship and sacrifices were two things that God used in history to point to Jesus. They remind us of Jesus, but unlike these sacrifices made at the Temple over and over again, Jesus died once and was a perfect sacrifice to God. After Jesus died on the Cross the sacrifices in the Temple did not need to be offered anymore. Now all who believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, and trust Him for forgiveness will be saved.

God still demands and deserves our worship. But there isn't one special Temple that we have to travel to anymore and no more animal sacrifices. We can worship right where we are—right here, right now. That is because now we can worship God through Jesus Christ, His Son. Jesus came so that whoever would believe in Him would be able to worship God through Him, in spirit and in truth from their heart.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is faithful and always keeps His promises.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice, so we don't have to sacrifice animals at the Temple anymore.
- Ask God to help us worship Him with our whole hearts in spirit and truth!

