



# 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 6:11–14, 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

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. Then they will recite the verse to each other and/or the entire class.



### Activity 1: Solomon Builds God's Temple Class Notes

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



### Studying God's Word

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



### Activity 2: Pick a Point Review Game

Divide students into teams. As you ask lesson review questions, students will answer. They will have an opportunity to pick points of random values for each correct answer.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO



### COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM 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.



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Temple Image from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Ark of the Covenant Image from the Resource DVD-ROM.



### PICK A POINT REVIEW GAME

- Print and cut apart the Pick a Point Game Point cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Put them into a bag or basket.
- Print one Pick A Point Questions Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during the activity.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

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

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

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Temple Image
- Ark of the Covenant Image

- Pick a Point Review Questions Sheet
- Pick a Point game cards
- Bag or basket to hold cards



## 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 lesson key passages along 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 worshipped. 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 complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet.
- They will recite the memory verse to another student or the teacher.

*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. 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 in something.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study today and fill in our class notes, we will learn more about the great Temple God instructed Solomon to build for God's glory.

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



# Studying God's Word

► 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.

## 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 after David died. This would be a house for the Lord in Jerusalem where God's glory would shine, and where He would be worshipped by His people.

David did have a part in the building of the Temple before he died. He encouraged the people to offer their money, time, and treasures so the Temple could be built. David collected all of the materials necessary to build the large Temple. When everything needed for the building of this spectacular Temple had been collected, David and the people rejoiced greatly and worshipped God.

The memory verse you worked on when you came in today tells us the joy that David and the people felt when they knew the Temple would soon be built. We are going to memorize this in the next few weeks. Can you read it together with me? *Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 from the Memory Verse Poster.*

The people were so happy. The building materials had been gathered, and construction on the Temple was about to begin. We are going to answer a couple of questions today. What was the Temple supposed to look like? Where would 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. *Read the passage aloud.*

1 Chronicles 28:10–12

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

► Re-read the verses if necessary to get students to answer from the text.

? David was talking to Solomon in verse 10. Who had chosen Solomon to build the Temple? *1 Chronicles 29:10. The Lord.*

? What are two other names for Temple in this verse? Listen as I re-read it. *Read 1 Chronicles 29:10. House, sanctuary.*

Yes. The Temple would be a house or a sanctuary where the people could meet with God.

? So, who did the Lord choose to build this sanctuary? *1 Chronicles 28:10. Solomon.* Write that in on #1 on your class notes. The word is at the top of your class notes in the Word Bank.

? What did David tell his son? *1 Chronicles 28:10. Be strong and do it.*

? David told his son he could do it. To be strong! 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. The plans would tell Solomon how to build it—how God wanted it. 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? Listen as I read *1 Chronicles 28:19*. This will tell you.

*Read the verse. Who made David understand these plans? The Lord.*

? The Lord gave the plans to David. David gave the plans to Solomon. So, what word will you use for #2 on your class notes? Can someone read that for me? *Assign a reader or read it to the class. David.*

➤ Have the students refer to the word bank on their class notes as they complete them. After filling out each point, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

**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 money, possessions, and time to build it. God also gave the plans for the Temple to David. David carefully and faithfully passed the exact plans down to his son Solomon. God had promised David that Solomon would be king and build the Temple. God’s promise was about to happen. Solomon would begin to build God’s Temple. God was faithful to His promises. And God is always faithful to keep His promises.

? Look at #3 on your class notes. Which word will finish that sentence?  
*Promises.*

? Refer to the *Attributes of God Poster*. God is faithful to keep His promises. What does it mean when we say God is faithful? Can you find it on the *Attributes of God Poster*? *Have someone read the definition or read it to them. God will always keep His promises; He does not lie.*

**FAITHFUL**

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

## READ THE WORD

Everything was in place for the Temple to be built. And the building began! God was very specific as to what the design of the Temple would be and what it would look like. From the Bible, we have many details about how the Temple looked, how big it was, and the materials that were used. Take a look at the Temple Image on your class notes. *You may want to read 1 Kings 6:2–8 to illustrate how God told Solomon to build the Temple.*

? Can you see the different areas within the Temple? See the sanctuary or Holy Place in the center of the Temple? And the inner sanctuary or Most Holy Place at the back? And see the different items in the Temple? The

➤ Refer to the larger Temple Image from the Resource DVD-ROM. You may also want to get an image of the Temple from the internet or out of a Bible.

Bronze Altar, Vestibule the Altar of Incense, the Table of showbread, the Ark, and the curtain or veil that separated the Most Holy Place from the rest of the Temple. *Allow discussion. Go over each item with the students: Bronze Altar, Vestibule, Sanctuary or Holy Place, Altar of Incense, Tables of Showbread, Inner Sanctuary or Most Holy Place, the Ark, the curtain or veil. Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and the class notes.*

Listen carefully as I read from 1 Kings now. Solomon had built this amazing Temple. The Lord was going to speak to him again. What did the Lord have to say to Solomon? Listen carefully. Turn to 1 Kings 6:11–14. I'll read it to you.

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Who was speaking in 1 Kings 6:11? *The Lord.*
- ? Who was the Lord speaking to? *Solomon.*
- ? What did the Lord tell Solomon he must do? *Re-read 1 Kings 6:12 emphasizing walk in My statues, judgments, commands. Allow discussion.*

The Lord told Solomon, the people must continue to obey Him—like David did. If the people obeyed the Lord's commands, God would dwell or live with them and would not leave them. The Lord would dwell in the Temple. His presence would always be there.

- ? Can someone read #4 on your class notes? Who would dwell in the Temple with the people? *The Lord.* Complete #4 on your class notes now.
- ? And what did God say the people would need to do? Anyone remember? Look at #5 on your class notes. Which word should go in there? *Obey.*

### Discover the Truth

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* Solomon built the Temple and finished it, just like God had promised. The Temple was finally done. God had never had a permanent Temple. The people had been worshipping God in a tent—the Tabernacle—the tent the people travelled with for 480 years. God had moved with the Israelites through the wilderness and in Egypt. But finally, God would have a grand Temple. He would have a permanent place. His glory would stay in the Temple. The people would worship God there. But, like we read, 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 His commandments and glorify and worship only Him.



## READ THE WORD

The Temple was built. The Lord told Solomon to be obedient and His presence would stay with His people. This was truly a magnificent

place designed by God—a place where God was to be honored and worshipped. And there was a very special room. The room was called the Inner Sanctuary or the Most Holy Place. This was a very special part of the Temple. This was where God wanted the Ark of the Covenant to go.

- ? Does anyone remember what the Ark of the Covenant was and what it had inside? *Show the Ark of the Covenant Image from the Resource DVD-ROM and/or the Lesson Theme Poster. Allow for answers.*

The Ark was a special box or chest that God had the Israelites build when they left Egypt. They built this special chest hundreds of years before. The Ark was made of wood with gold all around the outside. It contained the Ten Commandments that God had given to Moses!

The Ark of the Covenant was very special to the people of God. The High Priest could only come near it once a year! And when he did, it was to sacrifice an animal to cover the people's sins. The Ark was the only place the Israelites could come to have their sins covered and they had to come back every year. Every year sacrifices had to be made because of their sin—that's what God demanded.

*Refer to the Temple Image.* Now that the Temple was finished, the very special Ark of the Covenant had a permanent place in the Temple. The Ark went into the Most Holy Place. The people were so happy! They praised and worshipped God. Sacrifices were made to the Lord in the new Temple. The priests took the Ark into the Most Holy Place, and God made His presence known in a spectacular way.

- ? Now, look at #6 on your class notes. How will you complete that? What went inside the Most Holy Place in the Temple? *The Ark of the Covenant.* Who will read that for us? *Assign a reader.*

The priests took the Ark into the Most Holy Place. The Temple was finished. And listen to what God did to show that He approved of this permanent Temple. I'm going to read 1 Kings 8:10–13. This is so exciting! Turn to 1 Kings 8 in your Bibles and listen carefully! *Read the passage.*

1 Kings 8:10–13

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Where were the priests coming out of? *1 Kings 8:10. The Holy Place.*
- ? *Refer to the Temple Image.* Yes, they were coming out of the Holy Place. What had they left in the Most Holy Place? What did God say had to be kept in the Most Holy Place? *Show Lesson Theme Poster, if necessary. The Ark of the Covenant.*
- ? What filled the house? *1 Kings 8:10. The cloud.*

A cloud filled the house or the Temple. Wow! That must have been something to see. The Bible says that the priest couldn't stay in there because of the cloud.

? **What did this cloud mean?** *Re-read 1 Kings 8:11. It was the glory of the Lord filling the house of the Lord.*

### Discover the Truth

God's glory was shown in the Temple as a cloud. The Temple was full of the glory of the Lord! The priests had to stop working and come out because the Lord's glory was so great. 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 here. And the Ark was set in the Most Holy Place. God's people would now come to this place—to this permanent Temple—to praise and worship the holy God.

? Look at #7 on your class notes. Will someone read that for me? How will you complete it? *Cloud.*



## Pick a Point Review Game

### MATERIALS

- Pick a Point Review Questions Sheet
- Pick a Point game cards
- Bag or basket to hold cards

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide the children into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a number card from the basket. This will be the number of points the team gets for the correct answer. The number of points on the cards will vary so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. The effort to earn points will keep the students tuned into the game. Repeat any questions that were missed the first time through. Keep a list of the teams' points to determine the "winner" for the day. If time allows, repeat the questions!*

OK. Now you are going to get into teams. This game is called "Pick a Point." Your team will get a chance to answer a question. If you get the answer right, you will draw a point to see what that answer was worth! I'll keep score here on the board. Get together with your team and let's get started.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The permanent temple was built to the Lord! The priests would sacrifice there, the people would worship there, and God's glory filled the place in the form of a cloud. What a day of rejoicing that must have been!





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* God had promised David that his son would build the Temple. God gave David the design and instructions for the Temple, and David passed those to his son Solomon. Solomon was the one God had chosen to build this beautiful Temple for His worship. This was 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

When the Temple was completed, God's glory filled it! It was filled with smoke. The people praised God and worshipped Him because His Temple was finally finished and they had a place to worship Him. For many, many years the people worshipped God at this special Temple.

Well, today, we don't have to travel a long way to one special place to worship God. And God doesn't show us His presence with smoke. But we should worship Him; He demands and deserves our worship.

And we can worship God right where we are—right here, right now, because of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross. God sent Jesus to die on the Cross. He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He came to forgive the sins completely of all who would believe, trust, and turn to Him and turn away from their sins. And as a forgiven child of God, you can praise and worship God now and forever.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children 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!

