

UNIT 12 | SESSION 2

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 6-9

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 34:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is mercy? Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The temple was a place where God met with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Moments of distress or pain and moments of rebellion or wandering often function as God’s classroom for His kids to learn to trust Him. These experiences force us to either lean in to God or to leave—to turn from God or to trust in God. These moments are not obstacles to our faith but opportunities God provides to grow our faith like no other.

In 1 Kings 8:22-53, King Solomon was praying at the dedication of the temple. God had fulfilled His promise to King David, and the people had a tangible reminder of God’s faithfulness and provision.

In Solomon’s prayer, we see several things He believed about God. Among those, we learn that Solomon believed the only right response to feeling far from God is to turn to God as our only hope and turn toward obedience to the Lord.

The temptation for believers when we feel far from God is not to move toward Him but rather to sit at a distance, fearing that what has caused our sense of distance prevents Him from wanting us near. But this is simply not true.

Solomon’s prayer reveals that God wants His people near. Even in the midst of rebellion or trial, the Lord is the only One to turn to.

When you hit moments of distress, pain,

rebellion, or wandering, is your tendency to move away from God or remain at a distance? Do you find yourself turning your focus away from yourself and toward Him?

If there is any rebellious way in you, turn toward God’s gracious hand of forgiveness. “LORD God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, who keeps the gracious covenant with your servants who walk before you with all their heart” (1 Kings 8:23).

God wants you near when you wander and wants your heart when you are hurting. Do not doubt Him, for He longs for us to draw near to Him as He has drawn near to us through Christ. Because of the work of Jesus, who drew near to us by humbling Himself, taking on the form of a man and enduring death on a cross, we too can humbly draw near to God.

TERMS TO KNOW

Temple: Place of worship, especially the temple of Solomon built in Jerusalem for national worship of the LORD. David planned the temple and accumulated great wealth and gifts for it, though Solomon was the one who built it.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Share about a time that someone kept a promise to you. How did it make you feel? How does that help you view that person now? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Solomon’s Temple” on the activity page.

SAY “ Solomon’s temple was a magnificent structure dedicated to be a place of worship to the Lord. The Lord is worthy of our worship and we should worship Him in spirit and in truth. We can worship God anywhere because Jesus made a way for us to be with God. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: BUILD A TEMPLE



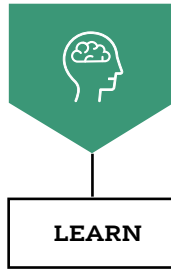
Pair up the kids and provide them with a deck of playing cards. Explain to them that they have only seven minutes to build a temple with their cards. Encourage them to work together and to be creative. Each group needs to make sure their temple is standing at the end of the seven minutes. When time is up, invite pairs to carefully walk around and view each team’s temple. As a class, vote on the best.

SAY “ You all were very creative with your card temples. Imagine what it might have been like to lead several thousands of people in building a temple for the Lord. Good thing Solomon was wise. ”

OPTION 2: CHURCH TOUR

Explain to the kids that you are going to take them on a tour around the church. Be sure to include places in the church kids might not have seen before and explain what happens in those locations. Invite different church leaders to share how areas are used to worship God. Allow kids to ask questions to church leaders. Invite a church member to share a brief testimony about how God helped or forgave them.

SAY “ Today, we will hear about how Solomon built a temple for people to meet with God. If we have trusted in Jesus, He is always with us. We can come together with other believers and worship God at church. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 6–9. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Solomon Built the Temple.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

“**Solomon was the king of Israel after his father, David, died. God made Solomon very wise. Solomon began to build a temple for the Lord.** Solomon ordered thousands of workers to help build the temple. They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. They laid a foundation and built the outside of the temple.

God blessed the temple and promised Solomon, “If you obey My commands, I will keep the promise I made to David. I will live among the Israelites, and I will not abandon My people.”

The temple was built in seven years. It was beautiful! The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with ornamental gourds and flower blossoms. **Solomon overlaid everything inside the temple with pure gold.** He hired men to make bronze furnishings for the temple, such as bronze bowls for holding water.

When the temple was complete, Solomon moved the ark of God from its place on Mount Zion to the new temple in Jerusalem. Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark to the most holy place in the temple, King Solomon and the leaders sacrificed sheep and cattle to the Lord.

When the priests came out of the temple, **a cloud filled the temple. God’s glory was in the cloud. Solomon turned to speak to the Israelites. “Praise God!” he said. “God promised David that his son would build a temple. God kept His promise!”**

Solomon stood and prayed with his hands spread out toward heaven. **“There is no God like You!” he said.** Then Solomon thought about the future. He knew Israel would sin and make God angry again; so Solomon asked for forgiveness, and he asked God to hear their prayers.

When Solomon had finished praying, he encouraged the Israelites to love and obey God. The people returned to their homes, joyful because God was good to them.

Christ Connection: The temple was a place where God met with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Show the temple: Provide pictures of Solomon’s temple to hold up as you share today’s lesson.

Draw it out: Provide paper and pencils for kids to draw what they picture when they hear today’s Bible story.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Not only did Solomon use his wisdom to build a temple, he encouraged the Israelites to love and obey God. Solomon paused and took time to worship God. Solomon did not rely on his own strength and wisdom; he knew that without God, building the temple would not have been possible. Solomon praised God saying “There is no God like you.”

What do you remember about the interior of the temple? Look at 1 Kings 6:14-16. **[Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 6:14-16.]** There were cedar boards from the floor to the ceiling. He built this as an inner sanctuary, the most holy place.

What did Solomon do when he finished praying? Look at 1 Kings 8:54-55. **[Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 8:54-55.]** Once Solomon finished praying, he stood and blessed the whole congregation.

It can be hard to keep a promise for a short time, but God always keeps His promises. Many years before, God promised King David that his son would build a temple. While the temple was a special place where the Israelites met with God, we know that through Jesus, God is with us wherever we go. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise to dwell with His people forever. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Solomon built the temple. The temple was a place where God met with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 12, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is it easier to meet with God in a church building than it is to meet with God somewhere else? Why?
2. What are some places you love to meet with God?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show the photo of Victor and Ludmila Moura.

SAY “ Victor and Ludmila Moura left Brazil to move to the United States and plant a Brazilian church. Victor said that when they moved to Boston they began making friends, and that’s how they started to build their church. What do you like about having friends at church? ”

Allow the kids a few moments to talk about their friendships. Share a story of friendship that you have experienced within the church. Ask a volunteer to pray that God will help us be