

UNIT 12 | SESSION 2

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

1 KINGS 6-9

CHRIST CONNECTION:

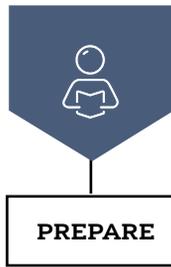
The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to help us.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

The Lord is a kind and loving God. Exodus 34:6



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Moments of distress or pain and moments of rebellion or wandering often function as God’s classroom for His children 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 that 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 that He believed about God. Among those, we learn that Solomon believed the only right response to feeling far from God is to turn the direction of our focus from ourselves to God as our only hope and to turn the direction of our lives from rebellion 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 or move further away, in fear 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

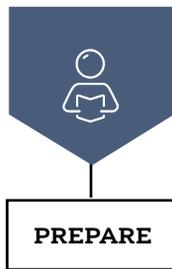
rebellion or trial, the Lord is the only way to turn.

When you hit moments of distress, pain, rebellion, or wandering, is your tendency to move away from God or remain at a distance? Or 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).

This is the God who 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.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME



LEARN



LOVE



LIVE



BONUS

Guess and see

- Big Picture Question Poster
- pillowcase used in “Feel and guess” from last session (keep to use throughout the unit)
- play tools

Review the Bible story connection

- Bible Story Picture

Shake hands

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Discover the places in our church building

- pictures of places in the church building such as the sanctuary, fellowship hall, your classroom, playground, gym, church office, and an adult classroom
- picture of exterior of church building (optional)
- Bible Story Picture (optional)

Praise God with instruments and dance

- musical instruments, 1 per child
- children’s praise and hymn music
- electronic device

Design templates

- circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles of various sizes from different colors of construction paper, several shapes per child
- Bible story picture

Work puzzles with a friend

- “Victor and Ludmila Moura Photo” printable
- wooden puzzles

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child

Practice the key passage phrase

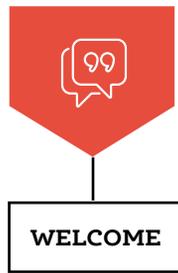
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Build a temple

- Bible Story Picture
- different types of blocks such as wooden, plastic interlocking, and cardboard blocks

Match play tools to outlines

- heavyweight paper
- play tools
- tool kit or bag



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversation as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

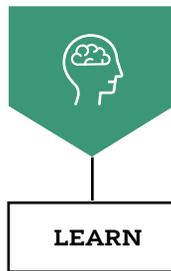
GUESS AND SEE

Locate the pillowcase used in “Feel and guess” from last session. Place a couple of play tools (make sure the tools do not have any sharp ends) in the pillowcase. Display the big picture question poster on the door or near the entrance at the preschoolers’ eye level. Point to and read aloud the poster as each child arrives. Talk about the big picture question and answer. Invite each child to reach into the pillowcase, without looking. Suggest he tell you what he thinks is in the pillowcase. After he guesses, suggest he remove the tools and see if he guessed correctly. Place the tools back in the pillowcase for the next child. Keep the pillowcase to be used throughout the unit.

SAY “ Hello. I am excited you are here to learn with us. You found play tools in the pillowcase today. People use tools to help build buildings. In our story today we will hear about a temple people built. The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 COUNT TO SEVEN

Lead the preschoolers to count seven as a group. Suggest they move to group time in creative ways while counting such as jumping seven times, clapping seven times, or taking seven steps to arrive at group time.

SAY “ We counted to seven. In today’s story, we will hear that Solomon began to build a temple for God. It took the builders seven years to build the temple. Listen to story and hear more about the temple. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 6–9 and tell the following Bible story.

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

SAY “ One day, King Solomon began to build a temple for God.

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, I will keep the promise I made to your father, David. I will live with the Israelites, and I will not leave My people.”

The builders worked for seven years! 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 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 leaders worshiped God with offerings.

When the priests came out of the temple, a cloud filled it up! Solomon said, “Praise God! God promised David that his son would build a temple, and God kept His promise!”

Solomon prayed, “There is no one like You, God!” Then Solomon told the people to love God and obey Him. The people were happy because God had been so good to them. ”

Christ Connection: The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to help us.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY CONNECTION

Display the Bible story picture. Toss a beanbag to a child and ask her to name something she remembers about the temple built in the Bible story. Lead her to toss the beanbag to another child to tell something he remembers. Continue the process allowing each child a turn to catch and throw the beanbag. Give clues to help the preschoolers recall the story if needed.

SAY “ King Solomon began to build a temple for God. Building a temple was a big job! Many builders worked on the temple. They cut cedar logs and big stone blocks. The builders worked for seven years! 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 gold. When the temple was ready, Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark into the temple, King Solomon and the leaders worshiped God with offerings. Solomon said, ‘Praise God! God promised David that his son would build a temple, and God kept His promise!’ The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to help us. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Are You Sleeping?”

“The Lord is kind. The Lord is loving.
Exodus 34:6, Exodus 34:6
The Lord is kind and loving. The Lord is kind and loving.
Exodus 34:6, Exodus 34:6”

5 SHAKE HANDS

Place the key passage phrase marker at Exodus 34:6. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Demonstrate how to shake hands with a person. Explain that it is common for people to shake hands when they make a promise with each other. Guide the preschoolers shake hands with friends while saying the key passage phrase together a few times.

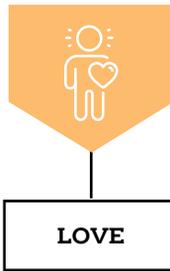
SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that the Lord is a kind and loving God. One way God showed He is kind is loving is that God promised David that his son would build a temple, and God kept His promise! ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for your church and the building where you worship. Praise God for being a loving God who keeps His promises. Praise Him for keeping His promise to send a Savior.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 MEASURE WITH BLOCKS



Invite preschoolers to measure items around the room using different-size blocks. Suggest they measure tabletops, chair heights, and other furniture in the room. Consider making a chart on paper to note how many of each block is needed as they measure the various items.

SAY “ We used the different-size blocks to measure furniture in our classroom. Do you think they measured the cedar logs and the big stone bricks they used to build the temple? Why do you think it is important to measure when people build a building like a temple? The builders worked very hard to build the temple. They worked for seven years. 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 gold. The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. ”

2 DISCOVER THE PLACES IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Print pictures of different places in your church building such as the sanctuary, fellowship hall, your classroom, playground, gym, church office, and an adult classroom. Place the pictures on a table. Invite preschoolers to look at the different pictures and talk about what they think happens in each room. Help children identify the rooms and explain how the room is used. To extend the activity, show a picture of the exterior of your church. Lay it beside the Bible story picture. Ask boys and girls to talk about how the pictures are alike or different.

SAY “ We saw pictures of different places in our church. We can worship and learn about God when we come to church. Which is your favorite place at church? In our Bible story, the people built a temple. The builders worked for seven years. 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 gold. He hired some men to make bronze furniture for the temple, like bronze bowls for holding water. The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. ”

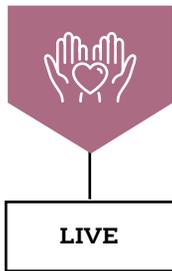
3 PRAISE GOD WITH INSTRUMENTS AND DANCE

Gather rhythm instruments and place them on a table. Play a simple rhythm for preschoolers to repeat back to you. Lead preschoolers to play the instruments while singing “The Lord Is Kind” sung during group time. Play children’s music that includes praise and hymn songs. Invite them to play their instruments, sing, or dance along to the music. If musical instruments are not available, show the children how to keep rhythms by clapping. Be sensitive to children who have physical limitations and may need the activity adjusted.

SAY “ When the temple was ready, Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark into the temple, King Solomon and the leaders worshiped God with offerings. The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. We can also worship Him when we sing and play the instruments. What are other ways you can worship God? ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 DESIGN A TEMPLE

Print the key passage phrase at the bottom of pieces of construction paper, one per child. Cut circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles of various sizes from different colors of construction paper. Make sure to prepare enough shapes for each preschooler to have several. Sort the shapes and place them in the middle of the a table. Place glue sticks and the Bible story picture next to the sorted shapes. Demonstrate how to use shapes to build a temple. Lead children to glue shapes onto their papers to design temples. As they work, show them the Bible story picture.

SAY “ Building a temple was a big job! Many builders worked on the temple. The builders worked for seven years! Would you have wanted to be one of the building workers? Who do you think built our church building? ”

2 WORK PUZZLES WITH A FRIEND



Print the “Victor and Ludmila Moura Photo” printable. Lay it on a table with wooden puzzles. Invite preschoolers to work with a friend to put puzzles together. Suggest they select a puzzle, take out the pieces, and then put the puzzle pieces together. As they work, show the Mouras’ photo to the children. Talk about things they like to do with their friends. Pray that God will help us be good friends to each other.

SAY “ People in the Mouras’ church are friends with one another. You have friends at church too. You are working with friends to put a puzzle together. We can work with one another to tell people about Jesus. Who are some of your friends at church? Who is someone you and your friends can tell about Jesus? [Pray for the preschoolers’ friends.] ”

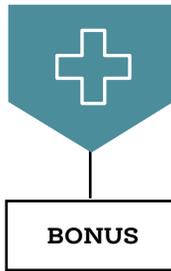
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to help us. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 GUESS THE TOOL

As preschoolers come to group time, role-play using a tool. Encourage preschoolers to guess the tool. Then lead them in role-playing using the tool. Possible tools: a hammer, saw, screwdriver, and shovel. Remind preschoolers people use different tools to build a building.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 6–9 and tell the following Bible story.

SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

- King Solomon began building a temple for God. God made a promise to Solomon: “If you obey Me, I will keep the promise I made to your father, David. I will not leave My people.”
- It took seven years to build the temple. 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 gold. He hired some men to make bronze furniture for the temple.
- When it was time to bring the ark of God into the temple, King Solomon and the leaders praised and worshiped God.
- When the priests came out of the temple, a cloud filled it up! Solomon said, “Praise God! God promised David that his son would build a temple, and God kept His promise!”
- Solomon prayed, “There is no one like You, God!” Then Solomon told the people to love God and obey Him.
- The people were happy because God had been so good to them.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”

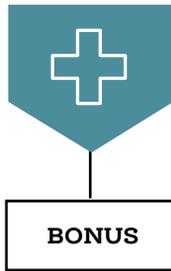
“The Lord is kind. The Lord is loving.
Exodus 34:6, Exodus 34:6
The Lord is kind and loving. The Lord is kind and loving.
Exodus 34:6, Exodus 34:6”

4 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker in the Bible opened at Exodus 34:6. Read the key passage phrase. Invite children to pretend to “hammer” as they say the phrase a few times.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for your church and that it is a place where you can worship Him.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 HELP A FRIEND



Group children into pairs. Guide children to pretend one of the two friends is needing help. Encourage the other friend in the pair to offer help to the child. Encourage children to take turns being the friend giving and receiving help.

SAY “ We gave our friends help and our friends helped us. What other ways can we help our friends? How do you feel when others help you? We learned in our Bible story that many builders worked to help build the temple. The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to help us. ”

7 BUILD A TEMPLE

Gather different types of blocks such as wooden, plastic interlocking, and cardboard blocks. Place the Bible story picture near the blocks. Invite preschoolers to work together to build a temple with the blocks.

SAY “ We worked together to build a pretend temple. In the Bible story we learned about the temple that was built. Building a temple was a big job! Many builders worked on the temple. They cut cedar logs and big stone blocks. Do you think the logs and stone blocks were heavy? They worked hard and laid the bottom of the temple. Then they built the outside of the temple. The temple had many rooms. The builders worked for seven years on the temple. Which part of the temple would you have wanted to help build? The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and is always with us, ready to help us. ”

8 MATCH PLAY TOOLS TO OUTLINES

Arrange play tools on heavyweight paper. Trace around each tool. Then, place the tools in a play tool kit or bag on the floor or a table with the tool outlines nearby. Guide preschoolers to remove a tool from the kit and match it to its outline. Suggest children think of ways they would use the tool if they were building a building.

SAY “ We matched all the play tools to their outlines. What type of tools do you think the builders used when they built the temple? It took seven years to build the temple. 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 gold. He hired some men to make bronze furniture for the temple. The temple was a place where God was with His people and people could worship God. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.