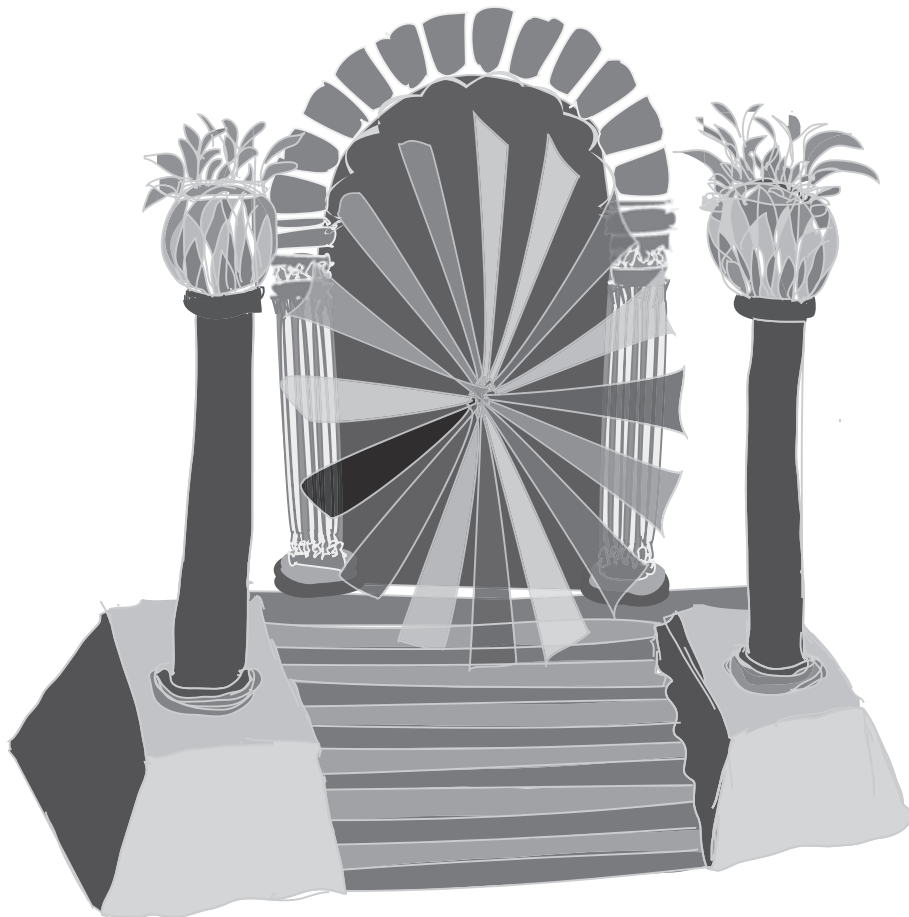


LESSON 60

Solomon & the Temple of God

1 CHRONICLES 28 – 29



BIBLE TRUTH

NOW THAT PEACE HAS COME TO ISRAEL,
SOLOMON BUILDS A HOUSE FOR GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry erase markers

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 60)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 60

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Build the Temple Foundation

SUPPLIES: craft sticks; white glue; white paper to use as the foundation; copies of your building plan

David’s Example

SUPPLIES: a barrel combination lock

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see that David's son Solomon is told to build the temple.

Ask the children what type of house they would build if they were doing it for themselves. What would they be sure was in the house? (things like a TV or game unit) What would they not want in their house? (things like vegetables) Would that house be fun?

Now, ask them if they were going to build a house for God what it would look like. What special things would they put in God's house? What things would they be sure not to put in God's house?

Pick two volunteers to draw on the whiteboard the kind of house they would build for God. Point out how the two are different.

Explain that today in our Bible story we will see that when God wanted a house, he told David, Solomon's father, exactly how to build the temple and gave him detailed plans. God wanted the temple built in a certain way. There would be a very special room in the temple called the most holy place just like there had been in the tabernacle. In fact, the temple had the same basic plan as the tabernacle or tent that God lived in when his people were wandering in the desert. With the temple, God would have a permanent home among his people.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 60, "Solomon and the Temple of God," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

Who picked Solomon to build the temple?
(*God picked Solomon.*)

What do you think it would be like for Solomon to be given the task of building the temple?

(Building the temple was a very special job, and it was an honor to be entrusted with the task.)

What was the purpose of the temple?

(David wanted to build a temple for God. It would serve as the permanent resting place for the ark of the covenant, which had been in a tent.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Who do you think planned what the temple would look like?

(God put the plans on David's mind.)

What did David do with all the directions for how to build the temple?

(David wrote down the plans [1 Chronicles 28:19].)

What other instructions did God give to his people?

(He gave Noah the plans for the ark. He gave Moses the plans for the tabernacle. Most important of all, he gave us the Bible that tells us how to live a life that glorifies God.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 60—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Who would you rather be, David or Solomon, and why?

(Accept any answer.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:16–17

Solomon was commissioned by God to build the temple. The temple would be the place where God's presence would dwell. All of worship would revolve around the temple. This temple was only a shadow of another temple, our hearts. Paul draws the connection in 1 Corinthians 3:16–17: "Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple."

The temple of Solomon would be filled with the presence of God. Now as believers we are also filled with the Spirit of Christ.

Solomon was chosen by God to build the temple because he was a man of peace (1 Chronicles 22:9–10). David was not permitted to build God's house because he was a man of war. One day the king would come who would reign on the throne of Solomon forever. This king, Jesus, would build God a house—the church. Of the increase of his peace there would be no end (Isaiah 9:7). God chose Solomon, a man of peace, to point forward to the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Why do you think the articles in the temple were made of gold?

(Gold is considered the most precious metal. God is deserving of the richest of what the earth can provide.)

Read about the gold items for the temple in 1 Chronicles 28:15–18. Have the children do their best to draw one of the items on their coloring sheet and color it yellow or gold.

Build the Temple Foundation

SUPPLIES:

- craft sticks
- white glue
- white paper
- copies of your building plan (enough for each child)

Instructions prior to class: Design a simple plan for the temple using pen and paper. A rectangle for the floor (three sticks long by one stick wide) and a dividing stick for the curtain to make a square room on one end.

Show the children your plan for the temple. Pair off the children and give each pair a copy of the plan and ask them to build a foundation for the temple from craft sticks according to the plan. Help children who are having difficulty. Help them follow the plan exactly.

Point out how all the projects look alike. Plans help us to make the exact copy of what the designer of the plans intended. Without plans each person would make something different.

The Bible is God's plan for us as to how we should live. It is important that we just don't do what we want but follow God's Word.

David's Example

SUPPLIES:

- barrel combination lock (not one with a dial)

One of the best ways to teach is by example. It is much easier for a student if there is an example to follow. King David demonstrated sacrificial giving by giving his own money. Read 1 Chronicles 29:1–6. When the people saw David's generosity they wanted to imitate him.

Ask the children if they know what the lock is. Give it to a child who has never opened a combination lock and tell him/her to open it. He/she will likely not be able to open it. Then you can show them how it works. Turn each dial slowly until the correct digits line up with the indicator. When the combination is entered, open the lock. Give him/her a second try and see if he/she can open the lock. Chances are that by watching you he/she will be able to open the lock.

Ask the children the following questions:

How did David's example in giving help teach the people how to give?

(Elicit that David gave willingly and generously and he showed the people that God is worthy of the best we have to give.)

What can we learn from David's example?

(Elicit that God is worthy of our best and we also should give willingly and generously to God's purposes.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 60 - SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE OF GOD

