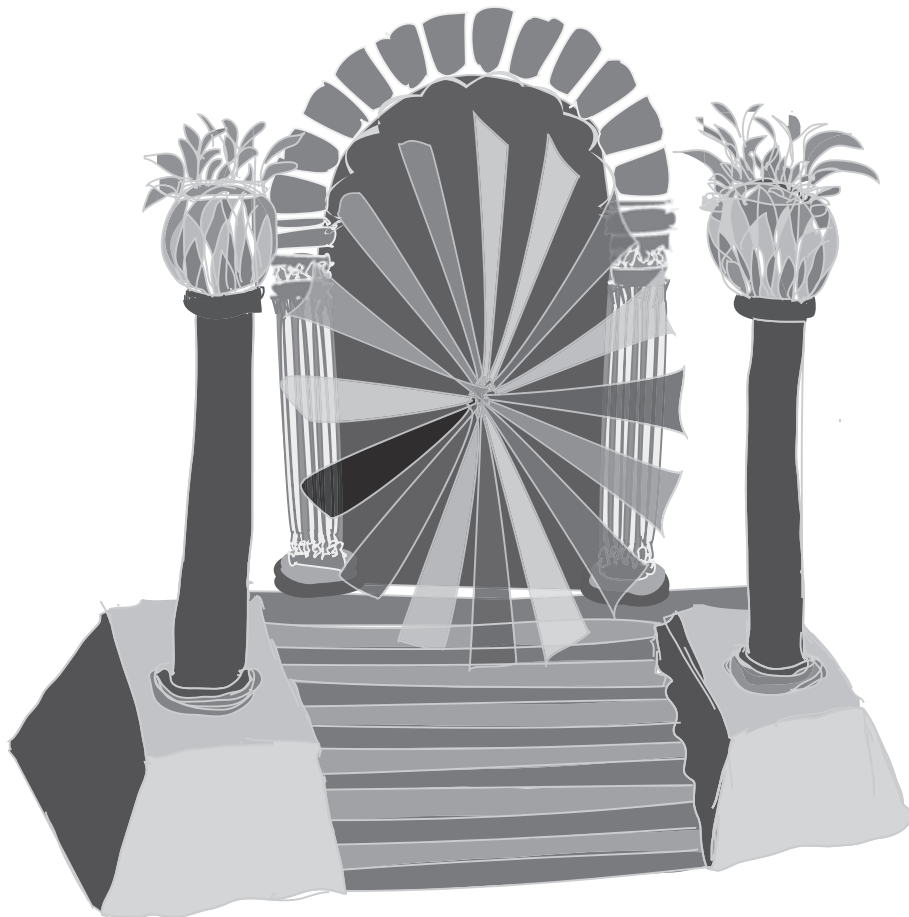


LESSON 60

Solomon & the Temple of God

1 CHRONICLES 28 – 29; 2 CHRONICLES 7



BIBLE TRUTH

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

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Chronicles 7 from the Scriptures or read story 60, “Solomon and the Temple of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **15 MIN**
By Example
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ origami paper
 - ✓ directions for making an origami box (<http://www.origami-fun.com/origami-box.html>)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
My Prayer of Gratefulness
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper and pencils or pens
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Treasure for the Temple
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 60—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Seventy-Five Pounds to the Talent
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ seventy-five pounds of bricks or other stones taped together with strong tape or just bring a scale to class and pile on seventy-five pounds of books

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The Lord's temple, a place of rest—Unlike the tabernacle, the temple represented a permanent home for God's ark, the altar, and the other furnishings God originally directed Moses to build. This means the temple was to be “a house of rest,” a symbol of God dwelling with his people in peace and rest. But David was a man of war. That was why God did not allow David to build his temple. God ordered his temple to be built by David's son Solomon, a “man of rest.”

God did give David the plans for the construction of the temple and allowed him to participate by collecting the raw materials for its construction.

David took up an offering for the temple—David led the people to give generously for the temple construction. They knew that everything they had came from God and were happy to give these riches back to God, confident that he would continue to be faithful to supply their needs.

The glory of the Lord filled the temple—It took Solomon seven years to build the temple. The final building was magnificent. Yet, no matter how great its beauty, all the work would have been meaningless if God did not fill the temple with his presence. The good news, of course, is that God did fill the temple, and all the people bowed down when they saw fire from heaven consume the burnt offering and fall upon the temple. The dedication of the temple included the sacrifice of a staggering number of animals. But no matter how many animals the people of Israel sacrificed, none of them could truly take away their sins. They all pointed forward to Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Temple of Solomon

The temple of Solomon was like the tabernacle in the wilderness except that it was larger and permanent. Like the tabernacle, it had three areas: the inner sanctuary called the Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place, the larger Holy Place, and the outer court.

All of the stones used for building the temple were cut off-site so that no loud construction sounds could be heard in God's house while it was being built (1 Kings 6:7). Building the temple required eighty thousand stone cutters; seventy thousand burden-bearers; thirty-three hundred chief officers; and thirty thousand forced laborers (1 Kings 5:13–16).

The temple was overlaid nearly everywhere with gold because it was an earthly symbol of God's temple in heaven. There were palm trees and flowers inside and out. This temple represented an end to war and a celebration of peace and rest for God's people and was decorated to suit that purpose.

The ark of the covenant was brought into the finished temple, see 1 Kings 8, and God's glory filled the temple at its dedication (2 Chronicles 7:1–3).

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Chronicles 7 from the Scriptures or read story 60, “Solomon and the Temple of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

By Example

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ origami paper
- ✓ directions for making an origami box (<http://www.origami-fun.com/origami-box.html>)

The object of this lesson is to show the power of example.

The origami box is tricky to make but should be within the skill level of your class. Keep in mind that you are going to first give the students verbal instructions without showing them any pictures or the finished product. Practice making the project so that you can easily show the class how to do it.

Pass out the paper, and then recite step-by-step the following instructions:

1. Start with a square piece of paper. Fold the paper in half horizontally and then vertically.
2. Fold the four corners of the paper toward the center point.
3. Fold the top and bottom of the square into the center and open out again to create these creases.
4. Open out the top and bottom triangular flaps.
5. Fold the sides of the box into the center, creasing well.
6. Fold down the top corner of the box and then open it out again.
7. Fold down the box in the other direction. You should now have two new diagonal creases.

8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 at the other end of the box so you have the new creases at both ends.
9. At one end of the box, open out box along the creases you just made. This will raise the top portion of the box vertically.
10. Fold top over into the box.
11. Repeat steps 9 and 10 at the other end of the box ... and it's finished!

Do not stop to repeat the directions often because you want them to get a bit frustrated. After you have achieved your goal of getting them frustrated, ask them if they would like you to show them each step by example. Proceed with this new approach and watch their frustration melt away.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why was our second attempt at folding so much more effective than our first?
(The second time you led us by example and not just with words.)
- Remember in the story that King David takes up an offering for building the temple. Why were the people so generous in what they gave for the building?
(David gave generously and the people followed his example.)
- Where else do we see leading by example in the Bible?
(Leading by example is the way God teaches his people. Jesus said, "Follow me" [Matthew 4:19]; Paul said, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" [1 Corinthians 11:1 NIV]; and Jesus left us his example in his Word for all of us to follow [1 Peter 2:21].)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

My Prayer of Gratefulness

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils or pens

Have the children open their Bibles to 1 Chronicles 29:1–22 and follow along as you read. Ask the children to describe David's attitude after the offering was taken.

Ask them if we should have the same attitude considering all that God has given us. They will undoubtedly say that we should.

Pass out the paper and pens. They should write at the top of their paper, “My prayer of gratefulness.” Tell the children to write a prayer of gratefulness modeled after David’s prayer. To help them get started have them think of specific things that God has done in their lives.

As the children write, walk around the class and offer help to those who seem to be stuck. Then ask for a few volunteers to read what they wrote. Thank God in corporate prayer for all that he has provided making a point of thanking him for Jesus and the gospel.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Treasure for the Temple

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of all the treasure collected to build the temple.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Seventy-Five Pounds to the Talent

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ seventy-five pounds of bricks or other stones taped together with strong tape
or just bring a scale to class and pile on seventy-five pounds of books

Tell the children that you wanted to help them understand how much a talent weighs so you made them a talent of bricks (or brought in a scale to show them how many books equal one

talent). Give each person in the class an opportunity to see how heavy the talent of bricks is. Then read 1 Chronicles 29:1–8.

David led the people by example by giving the following:

- 3,000 talents or 225,000 pounds of gold, and
- 7,000 talents or 525,000 pounds of silver.

In response, the people gave:

- 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics (coins) or 376,000 pounds of gold, and
- 10,000 talents or 725,000 pounds of silver.

David and the people gave a total of 601,000 pounds of gold and 1,250,000 pounds of silver for building the temple. To put that into perspective, an elephant weighs 9,000 pounds. So King David and the people of God gave the equivalent of 66 elephant weights of gold and 138 elephant weights of silver.

Talk about how God used King David's example to inspire the people to give, and what a glorious, richly ornamented building the Temple of Solomon must have been with all that gold and silver. God wanted the temple, which was only a picture of Jesus who was the ultimate temple of God, to reflect as much earthly glory as possible.