

SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Now that peace had come to Israel, Solomon built a house for God.



THE STORY: 1 CHRONICLES 28:1-13

MONDAY

Solomon succeeded David and built a temple for the Lord

Solomon succeeded David and built a temple for the Lord – God’s temple was a symbol of God’s victory and His dwelling with His people in peace and rest. Therefore, God would not allow David, a man of war, to build His temple. God spoke to David and promised him a son who would be a man of rest. Under his reign God would give Israel peace and quiet all his days. God would be his father and he would be God’s son (1 Chronicles 22:7-10). God’s description of Solomon sounds a lot like Jesus. The Lord gave David the plan for the temple, down to the exact weight of the temple furnishings (1 Chronicles 28:19).

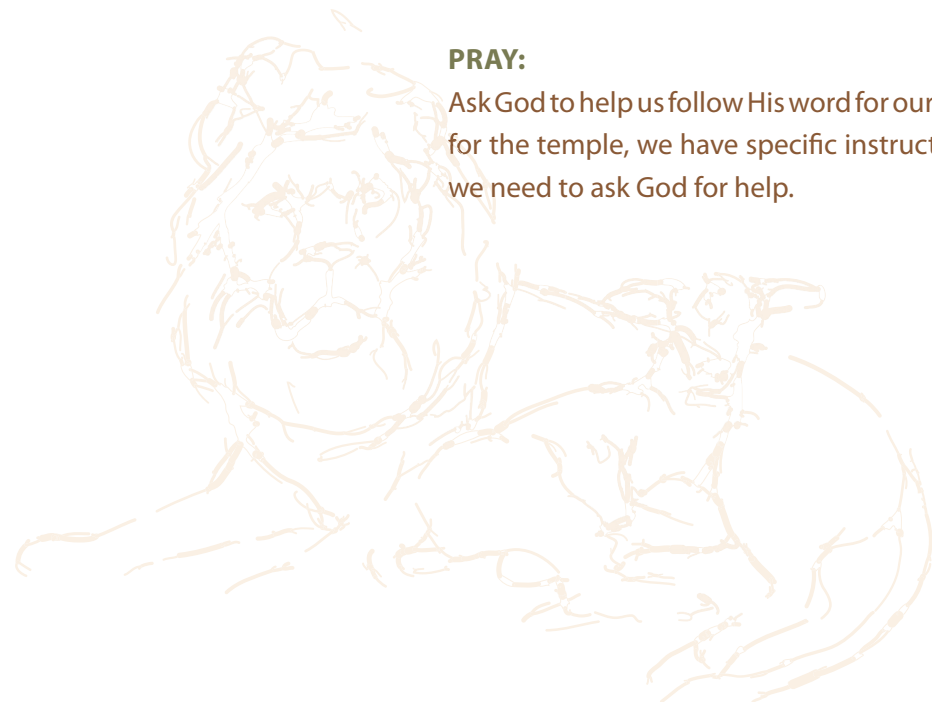
TALK ABOUT IT:

Read verse 28:9. How is this verse true for us today? *(God is still a searcher of hearts and knows everything. He also desires that we come to Him. It is also true that anyone who turns away and forsakes the Lord will be cast off forever.)*

Why did God give very specific plans for the temple instead of letting Solomon make a design of his own? *(The Temple and its furnishings were designed to represent things in the future and were woven into God’s overall plan. The temple and its furnishings were to be holy, set apart for the Lord. When men are left to themselves, sin can lead them astray, like Aaron and the golden calf.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help us follow His word for our lives. Just as there were specific instructions for the temple, we have specific instructions as to how to live holy lives. To do that we need to ask God for help.





David took up an offering for the temple

David took up an offering for the temple – David wanted to build a house for the Lord. He made many preparations. He drew up the plans (modeled after the tabernacle, but twice as large), and began to collect materials for the construction (1 Chronicles 22:2-5). Finally, David took up an offering and started the collection by giving generously of his own wealth. The people responded with similar generosity. David, moved by their giving, credited God with all they had done (1 Chronicles 29:14-16).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who does David say all the wealth of the world belongs to? *(David was very clear to thank God and said that all our riches come from the Lord. We are simply giving back to God that which belongs to him.)*

What happens when you don't get those things? What sins stand in our way? *(Greed and covetous desire often tempt us to grab and keep everything we have and look for more.)*

How are these sins most often at work in your life? *(Parents, draw out your children here. They may have difficulty sharing or an unwillingness to give to others.)*

PRAY:

Ask God for a generous heart that can see God as the owner of all things. Pray that we use all things for His glory.





Where is Jesus?

Solomon was commissioned by God to build the temple. The temple was the place where God's presence would dwell. All worship revolved around the temple. This temple was only a shadow of another temple, God's people. Paul draws the connection in the following scripture:

The temple of Solomon would be filled with the presence of God. Now, as believers, both as individuals and as the gathered church, we are filled with the Spirit of Christ. (2 Chronicles 7:1)

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 to fulfill the promise of a king 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).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should we live holy lives and avoid sin? *(Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We should try to live holy lives in honor of God's house.)*

How can we avoid sinning? *(Our only hope in our fight against sin is for God to soften our hard hearts and give us new desires to honor and please God. God begins to change our hearts when He saves us and places His Spirit there.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to change the hearts of your family members so that you can avoid sin and live holy lives.



The glory of the Lord filled the temple

The glory of the Lord filled the temple – It took Solomon seven years to build that magnificent temple for the Lord. But, no matter how beautiful it was, it would have been meaningless if God had not filled the temple with His presence. God did fill the temple, and all the people bowed down when they saw fire from heaven consume the burnt offering. The dedication included the sacrifice of over 142,000 animals. But not even 142,000 animals sacrificed in one place could match the one sacrifice of Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did all of the animals sacrificed at the dedication of the temple take away the sin of Israel? *(No. Even a million animals could never remove sin. Only the sacrifice of Jesus can truly cleanse people from all sin. The 142,000 sacrificed animals point toward the immeasurable cleansing power of Christ's sacrifice.)*

Where does the presence of God dwell now? *(The presence of God currently dwells in those God has saved through the work of Jesus on the cross. When God saves a person, He places His Spirit in his heart. That is something to celebrate! All Israel bowed down when they saw God fill the temple. As Christians we sometimes take for granted that the Spirit of the Living God is with us.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His Holy Spirit who fills those who place their trust in Christ and who shows himself among us.



THE STORY: ISAIAH 60:16-20 & REV. 21:9-27

FRIDAY

**On the road to
Emmaus.**

The term, "Savior," "Redeemer," and "Mighty One of Jacob" all refer to Jesus. The replacement of gold for bronze, silver for iron, bronze for wood, and iron for stones seems to indicate something that is even more wonderful than Solomon's Temple – the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:9-27).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is the sun no longer needed in heaven? *(Jesus is the light of heaven! His glory is brighter than the sun! See Revelation 21:23-24.)*

Will there be night in heaven? *(No. There will be no night. The Light of Christ will shine all the day, every day, forever!)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His wonderful plan. Ask Him to save every person in your family so that you will all be able to enjoy the wonders of heaven!

