

SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE OF GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CHRON. 28 – 29 & 2 CHRON. 7:1-6

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

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

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).

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).

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 that burnt offering. The following 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.

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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.

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

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.
(1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

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.

Solomon was chosen by God to build the temple because he was a man of peace (see 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 (see Isaiah 9:7). God chose Solomon, a man of peace, to point forward to the Prince of Peace, see Isaiah 9:6.



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ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Isaiah 60:16-18

Connecting the passage to Christ:

The terms, "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 (see Revelation 21:9-27).

Questions for reflection:

- Why couldn't this passage be speaking of Solomon and his temple? (Solomon is already dead and Isaiah's word speaks of a time to come.)
- Read the description of the New Jerusalem from Revelation 21. Does this match Isaiah's description? (Yes, and considering that the Lamb of God, the Righteous One, Redeemer, and Prince of Peace is at its center, the description fits wonderfully.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.



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ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

THAT'S A LOT OF SHEEP AND OXEN

Supplies

- large clock (analog with a second hand or a large digital readout that shows seconds)
- piece of purple cotton cloth

Make a ½" cut near the middle of one side of the purple cotton cloth to allow for easy tearing.

This exercise is to help the children understand the enormity of the sacrifices made at the dedication of the temple.

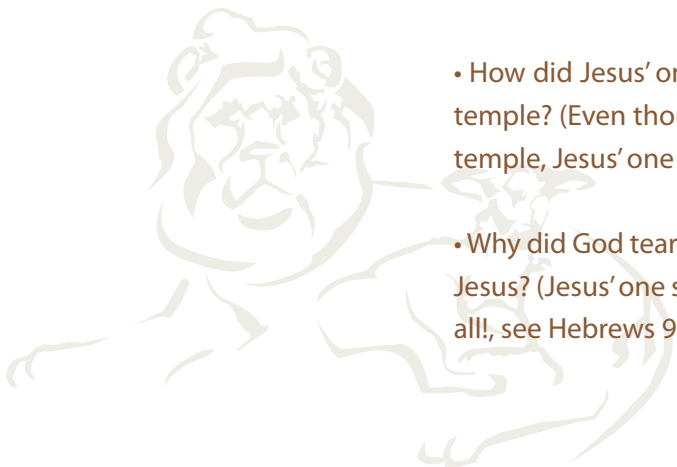
If 100 priests killed an animal every minute it would take them 24 hours to kill all the animals without any rest.

Hold up the clock and tell your class that they are the priests appointed to offer the sacrifices at the temple. Tell them to pound their fist on the table and to do so every second. (You might want to direct them like a conductor). At your signal, have them begin. Let them continue for three minutes. At the end of three minutes, if you have 20 students, they would have only struck the table 3600 times. To make the required number of sacrifices, at the same pace, they would need to pound every second for two hours straight!

Now, compare this to Jesus' sacrifice. Have one child pound the table once, say, "It is finished", pick up the cotton cloth and rip it.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- How did Jesus' one sacrifice compare with those offered at the dedication of the temple? (Even though there were 142,000 animals offered at the dedication of the temple, Jesus' one sacrifice is greater.)
- Why did God tear the temple curtain in two, see Matthew 27:51, after the death of Jesus? (Jesus' one sacrifice was eternally effective – that is, it was good once and for all!, see Hebrews 9:12.)



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BY EXAMPLE

Supplies

- origami paper
- a book with origami directions

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

Choose a pattern that will be difficult, but 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.

Pass out the paper and then recite step-by-step the instructions, i.e., "Fold the paper in half on a diagonal, then fold the paper in half again matching opposite corners, etc".

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.)
- Why was the offering for the temple so effective? (David led the people by his example.)
- Where else do you see this pattern in the Bible? (Leading by example is the way God teaches His people. Jesus said, "Come follow me", see Matthew 4:19; Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ", see 1 Corinthians 11:1; and Jesus left us His example in His Word for all of us to follow, see 1 Peter 2:21.)



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GUESS THE WEIGHT

Supplies

digital postal scale and
15-20 everyday items that
you can weigh on the
scale

The object of this lesson is to show the majesty of God in the detailed instructions He gave to David for building the temple.

Divide the class into four teams. Explain how the scale works and tell the children they are going to compete to see who can guess the correct weight of each object to a tenth of an ounce.

Use one object as an example. Then pass around the first object. Tell everyone to get a feel for it and guess in their mind how much it weighs. Then have them talk as a team to come up with their final answer. Take turns asking different teams to go first. The team with the closest weight gets a point. Do as many objects as you think you have time for then declare a winner and move to the questions.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Read 1 Chronicles 28:11-19. How did David know all the weights of gold it would take to make the various objects in the temple? (God gave David all the detailed measurements and details, see 1 Chronicles 28:19.)
- How did God know how much gold and silver it would take? (God knows everything because 1 Chronicles 28:9 tells us that the Lord understands every plan and thought and searches the heart.)
- Does the Lord still search our hearts? (Yes, the Lord still searches our hearts and knows all our motivations and secret sins. That is why we should fear the Lord when we are about to do something wrong. We cannot hide it from God. The good news is that Jesus forgives our sins if we place our faith in Him and live for Him.)

PRAYER

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



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IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of all the treasure collected to build the temple.

FOR OLDER GRADES

Supplies:

paper and pencils or pens

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1- 22. Ask the children to describe to you 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 and ask them to open their Bibles to 1 Chronicles. They should write at the top of their paper, "My prayer of gratefulness". David's prayer goes from verse 10 to verse 19. Tell the children you would like them to write a prayer of gratefulness for all that God has done in their lives modeled after David's prayer of thanksgiving. Explain to the children that you will be collecting the prayers and passing them back to their parents. This will provide a measure of accountability to ensure they take the assignment seriously.

Wander around the class as they write to help them. Then ask a few of the children that are willing to share what they wrote. Thank God in corporate prayer for all that He has provided, make a point of thanking Him for Jesus and the Gospel.



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A LITTLE BIT MORE

Temple of Solomon – The temple was very much like the tabernacle in the wilderness except that it was larger and permanent. Like the tabernacle, it had an inner sanctuary called the Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place, then the larger Holy Place and an outer court.

All of the stones used for building the temple were cut off-site so that no loud construction sounds could be heard, see 1 Kings 6:7. It took 80,000 stone cutters, 70,000 burden bearers, 3,300 chief officers and 30,000 forced laborers to build the temple, see 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 open 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, see 2 Chronicles 7:1-3.

