

# SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S TEMPLE

**Scripture:**  
I Kings 5:1-9:9

**Materials Needed:**  
Blocks or legos for building

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:1-2**

*Heaven is my throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me?...but to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know:

Although extravagant preparation had done in preparation for the Temple, and Solomon spared no expense and took 7 years to build it, he realized how small it was in comparison to the God of heaven and earth. He humbly asked for God's presence to be there, and God promised it would be.

To Realize: Even the most a person can give to God falls short of His worthiness, but God responds to the humble prayer of His servants who desire His glory.

To Respond: by having reverence for the hosue of God and humbly coming to God.

**Setting up the Story:**

Have building blocks or legos that kids can be playing with at the beginning of class. Tell them you want them to build a house with the legos. (They will build model-sized houses.) After awhile say, "Let's imagine you are going to build a house for your mom and dad!" What would you include? (get ideas). Could your parents live in the houses you made with your blocks/legos? Why not? (the houses are too small!) Imagine we were going to make a house for GOD. What would it look like? How big would it have to be?! (as big as the universe!) Well...there was a person in the Bible, and his job was to build a house for God. We learned about him in our last lesson: Solomon!

Scripture  
I Kings 5

**Telling the story:**

- I. Great Preparation
  - A. Blueprint given to David

**As you tell the story:**

(background)  
Solomon's father, David, had wanted to build a great Temple for God for a very long time. The place where people would come to worship was called the Tabernacle—and that was a big tent! It didn't look big and beautiful from the outside. David wanted people from

- B. Similar in layout to the Tabernacle
- C. David had made extravagant preparations with spoils from war
  
- D. God gave Solomon peace and wisdom
  
- E. Hiram supplied cedar

I Kings 6-7

- II. Elaborate Building
  - A. 30,000 laborers bring back cedar
  - B. 70,000 carriers
  - C. 80,000 stone cutters work off-site
  - D. Takes 7 years to build
  - E. Inside was cedar overlaid with gold
  - F. Ten tables and ten lampstands
  - G. Holy of Holies
  - H. Singers
  - I. Gatekeepers (guard the gold!)

other countries to come and worship God at a BIG TEMPLE that was so beautiful that they would know how GREAT GOD IS!! God told him, "No. You aren't the one to build it. Your son after you shall build it. So David started saving all his money! When he would get money from a battle, he didn't spend it on himself. He was storing it up for when his son would build God's Temple!

(summarize how Solomon had all he needed to do the job.) Who gave Solomon a very smart mind to know how the Temple should be built and how to make it? GOD DID! It was going to be His special place on the whole earth. And His people were going to get to be around it!

If you can get a picture of Solomon's Temple, it would be helpful to show. Rose Publications has a stunning rendition of what it might have looked like with all the gold.

Write these on the board as you talk about why you would need so many people! Why was it taking so long? Who was it for?! Solomon wanted it to be the MOST beautiful place in the whole world. WHY? So everyone would think he was so amazing? No! So everyone would know that GOD is so amazing! There is NO ONE like Him!

I Kings  
8:1-9:9

### III. Solomon Dedicates the Temple

A. "Heaven and highest  
heaven cannot contain you!"  
I Kings 8:27

And then the day came, and the Temple was finished! And it was ready to bring all the previous things from the Tabernacle down into the grand Temple.

To everyone looking at that Temple, they marveled at how beautiful it was. But you know what Solomon knew? God didn't live in a tiny little Temple. Even though it cost millions of dollars to build, God is so great!

READ I Kings 8:27

Solomon asked very humbly that God would put His Name there in a very special way. (Summarize the details of Solomon's prayer.)

B. "Please put Your Name  
here." I Kings 8:41-43

C. "I will put My Name there."  
I Kings 9:3-9

Who had given Solomon the job of building the Temple? And all he needed for the job? And when Solomon asked humbly, do you know what God said, "Yes. I will put my Name there." And He also warned them not to turn away from loving and serving Him, or else that beautiful Temple that had His special name in the whole world, would be destroyed.

### Concluding the Story:

We can't make a house big enough for God to live in. But what can we give to God? We can give him our heart... We can have reverence for the things of God and humbly come to Him. And what does He say? "YES!"

## SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S TEMPLE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

### **Personal Application Questions:**

1. Do you give of your best to the Master for His purposes and glory? *Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 1 Chron. 29:14*
2. It's humbling to realize that the best we have to offer cannot compare with the worthiness and majesty of God. How does God's response to a humble and contrite spirit draw you to Him?

### **Application Questions to Think Through for your Students:**

1. There is a real sense where the verse from I Corinthians 6 could be used as an application that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. If you use that as an application, think through the wording carefully.
2. What resources do your student's have that they can use for God's glory rather than drawing praise to themselves? (money for the offering, being smart, knowing how to do a skill better than others, singing, building)
3. What attitude should they have when they come into a place of worship of God (regardless of whether it is ornate or not). Why? Because who is the One being worshipped there?
4. How can their behavior show reverence for God's place of worship? (not running into older people, not tearing things up or carelessly writing on property used for teaching.)

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and the earth is My footstool.  
Where then is a house  
you could build for Me?  
...but to this one I will look,  
to him who is humble and contrite of spirit,  
and who trembles at My word.*

Use hand motions for each phrase—

Point to heaven with one hand and hold out a scepter with the other

Point to your feet

Put finger tips together like the roof of a house

Pretend to hammer nails

Put hands in circles up to eyes like looking through binoculars.

Bow the head and put a hand on your heart

Open the hands as if holding the Bible. (trembles: this Hebrew word is a physical shaking in fear. It shows the attitude of seriousness toward God's Word. The symbol of holding the Bible is chosen because to have children "shaking" might produce the opposite effect of what the words are speaking of! )