

## **September 27th \*Unit 12\*Session 3\* Elementary**

### **Solomon Built the Temple**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 1 Kings 6-8

**STORY POINT:** God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them.

**KEY PASSAGE:** James 1:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

#### **Opening Activity: Puzzle Relay**

Get a puzzle with a small amount of pieces. Mix up all the pieces and scatter them on one side of the room. Explain that when you say go, everyone will take turns one by one to grab a piece and try to add it to the puzzle. Then one person will return and another person will retrieve a piece. Everyone should work together to complete the puzzle. Encourage everyone to communicate about which pieces of the puzzle they need. You can use a timer to see how fast you can go!

**Say:** In our Bible story today, King David built the temple like you built your puzzle, and God kept the promise He made to King David. God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them. He made Solomon this promise: If Solomon would obey His commands, then God would keep His promise to live among the Israelites and to not leave His people. Today, through the Holy Spirit, God dwells inside everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

#### **THE BIBLE STORY**

Solomon was the king of Israel after his father, David, died. God made Solomon very wise. Solomon began to build a temple for the Lord. Solomon ordered thousands of workers to help build the temple. They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. They laid a foundation and built the outside of the temple. God blessed the temple and promised Solomon, "If you obey My commands, I will keep the promise I made to David. I will live among the Israelites, and I will not abandon My people." The temple was built in seven years. It was

beautiful! The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with ornamental gourds and flower blossoms. Solomon overlaid everything inside the temple with pure gold. He hired men to make bronze furnishings for the temple, such as bronze bowls for holding water.

When the temple was complete, Solomon moved the ark of God from its place on Mount Zion to the new temple in Jerusalem. Solomon gathered the leaders of Israel. As the priests moved the ark to the most holy place in the temple, King Solomon and the leaders sacrificed sheep and cattle to the Lord. When the priests came out of the temple, a cloud filled the temple. God's glory was in the cloud. Solomon turned to speak to the Israelites. "Praise God!" he said. "God promised David that his son would build a temple. God kept His promise!" Solomon stood and prayed with his hands spread out toward heaven. "There is no God like You!" he said. Then Solomon thought about the future. He knew Israel would sin and make God angry again; so Solomon asked for forgiveness, and he asked God to hear their prayers. When Solomon had finished praying, he encouraged the Israelites to love and obey God. The people returned to their homes, joyful because God was good to them.

**Christ Connection:** The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.

### **Key passage activity**

Write each word of the key passage on several pieces or index cards and tape them to blocks or play with them on the floor. Lead your kids in reading James 1:5 aloud together. Then invite them to construct a building, arranging the blocks so the words of the key passage are in order.

**Say:** Wisdom is a gift from God. Memorizing His Word can help us understand wisdom and become wise.

## **Discussion & Bible skills**

**Say:** For hundreds of years—ever since God led the Israelites out of Egypt—He had met with His people in the tabernacle. But when Solomon became king, God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. The temple was built in Jerusalem. [Optional: Look up where Jerusalem is on a map!]

Ask the following questions:

**1. Why did Solomon want to build a temple for God?** Recall that King David had wanted to build a temple to honor God. God had told King David that his son Solomon would build a temple. Solomon wanted to build the temple to honor God.

**2. The temple Solomon built was where people went to meet with God. Why don't people have to go to a temple now to meet with God?** Because God is holy, sinful people could not approach His presence in the temple. The priest could approach God's presence and obtain forgiveness for people's sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for our sin once and for all. When we trust in Him, we have forgiveness and can approach God on our own through prayer, Bible reading, and worship.

**3. How do you feel about communicating with God?** Have everyone share their thoughts and experiences. Emphasize that we can approach God as a loving Father. He loves His children. We can speak to God through prayer about anything.

## **Craft: Dwelling drawings**

Provide paper, rulers, and crayons or markers for kids to draw pictures of their dream homes. Kids may choose to illustrate the outside of the home, or they may wish to draw blueprint plans to show rooms and furnishings inside the home. Consider displaying blueprints of a house or other building as an example. After several minutes, have them share about their drawings. Ask your kids to describe what types of materials might be required to build their dream homes and how long construction might take.

**Say:** Today we heard a story from the Bible about a major construction project that took place when Solomon was the king of Israel. He wanted to

build a temple for God. Thousands of people worked together, using cedar logs and stone bricks. Do you remember how long it took them to complete the project?

### **Reflection and prayer**

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

**End by praying together**