

Lesson 60: Solomon & the Temple of God

1 Chronicles 28-29; 2 Chronicles 7 (pg. 120-121, Gospel Story Bible)

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. David was a man of war, which is 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. 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.

Where is the Gospel?

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).

Bible Truth:

Honoring God brings peace.

Object Lessons:

1. Giving to the Temple (Grades K-2)

Supplies:

- a large supply of special items like beads, marbles, Legos, etc.
- Pictures of gold jewelry, items of silver, something bronze
- A picture of what Solomon's temple may have looked like.

Show the kids the pictures of Solomon's temple. Ask the kids to describe what it looks like. Talk about how big it is. Show pictures of the jewelry and other objects. Talk about how those items could be melted and made into the bricks for the temple. How many of these precious items do you think it would take to make that whole temple? (1 Chronicles 29:1-9)

Talk about how the people gave generously. Give the students each a pile of the special items, pretending it is gold and silver. Have them come bring it to a spot where everyone is giving their items. Talk about how the people gave what they wanted to give, with their whole heart.

During the time, include the following questions:

- **Refer to 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 [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 searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought.")
- **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 sin from God. The good news is that Jesus forgives our sins if we place our faith in him and live for him.)

2. My Prayer of Gratefulness (Grades 3-5)

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Paper and pencil per child.

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. 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.

A Little Bit More (grades 3-5) - 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).