

October 28, 2012

Lesson 8: Solomon Builds the Temple



1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

1 Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. 2 Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 3 "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of

the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. 5 So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! **28** Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; **29** that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. **30** Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

41"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name **42**—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, **43** then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43



Great Big Word: WORSHIP

Singing, praying, reading God's holy word, and participating in anything that honors God.

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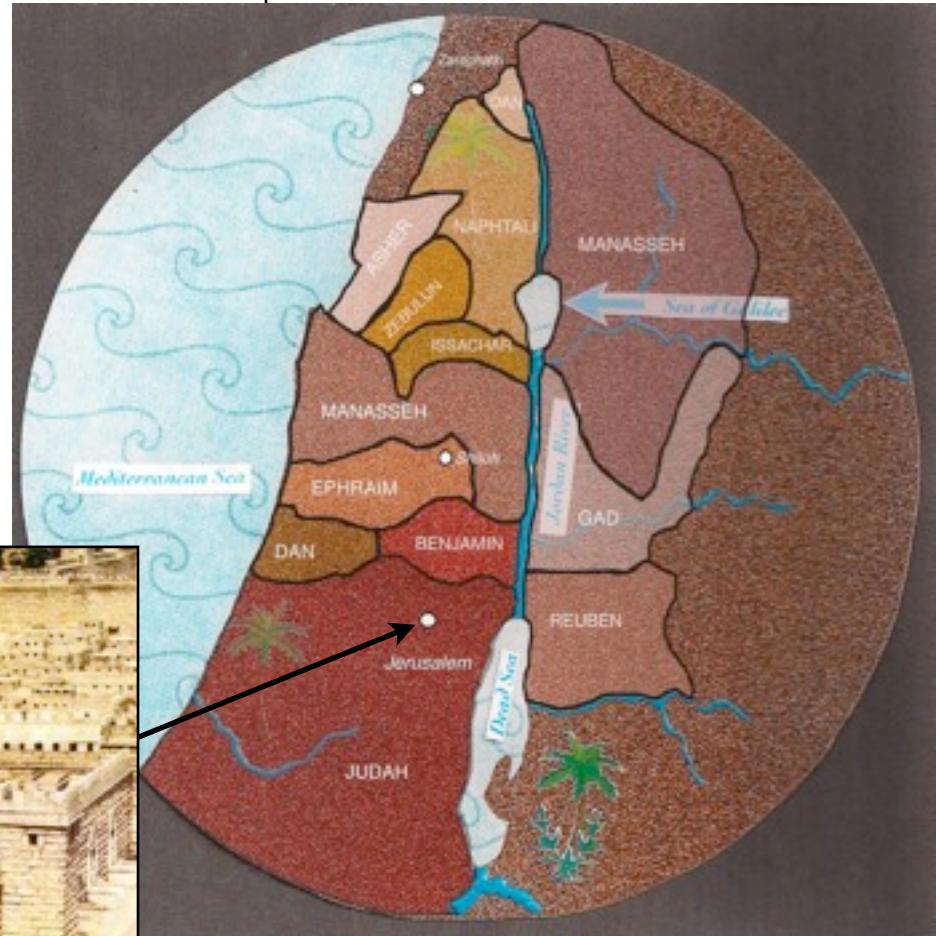
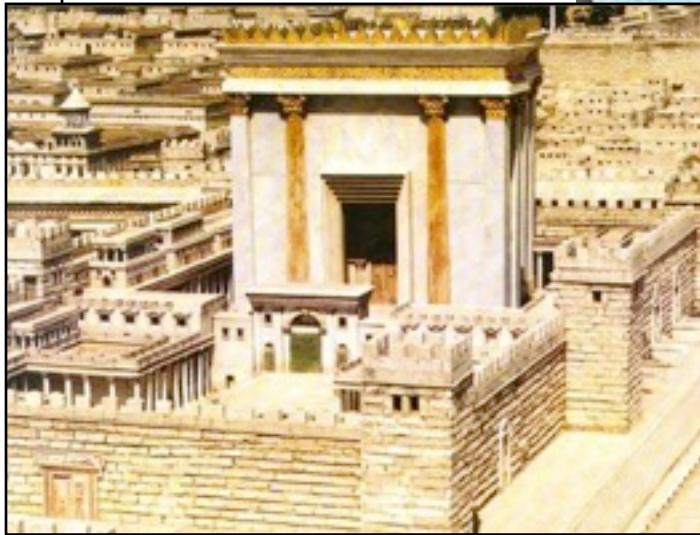
The Big Story Truth: God is bigger than any church, temple, or building made of stone. But our prayer is that when we come to worship God in “God’s house,” that we would remember God’s deeds of power and so pray and praise with all we are and all we have!

About the Scripture Passage: In this Scripture passage, we read of the building of the temple that we got started talking about in our lesson last week. In its building, though, some problems will arise. Solomon had to make an alliance with a foreign king to get the materials to finish temple construction. He paid an enormous price, including an ongoing supply of oil and wheat to be paid to the foreign nation for decades. These foreign ties are the beginnings of what will be alliances that eventually get the kingdom into big trouble. In addition, Solomon conscripted the people of his own kingdom to provide labor. But he only required service from those from the northern 10 tribes. (You can see how this might cause some hard feelings down the road!) We'll see the fallout from these decisions next week. For today, we celebrate the completion of the temple. The temple itself was such a big deal because in the Old Testament, God's presence was really understood to be in one place- the ark of the covenant which was placed in the holiest inner place of the temple. God's word to Solomon comes in 6:11-13 that if God's commandments are kept, God will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake the people of Israel. The temple becomes the physical embodiment of God's presence among the people.

Making the Connection: Is church the only place that we can pray? Is “our” church the only church in which we can worship? What is special about a church? These are questions that we all at some point in life have to think about. Church is a special place, but yet we teach kids that God is with them wherever they go. In this story of Solomon building the temple, we learn that God wants his people to have a place to come and to worship. But what’s most important about the temple is not the design of the building, the gold decorations, or anything about the place. What is most important is that God has promised to be with the people. It turns out that even though the temple was beautiful and a very special place for God’s people to come and worship, it eventually was destroyed. Nothing is left of Solomon’s temple today. The good news is that God has made a way to be with his people and for that relationship to continue, even when the temple crumbles.

Where in the World Are We?

The temple is built in the city of Jerusalem. Locate the city of Jerusalem on the magnified map. Display a picture of what the temple might have looked like.



For Your Reflection this Week:
Think about your own church.
Do you remember who built it?

What memories do you have of experiencing God's presence there?

In what ways do you experience God's presence in other places as well?

How might you engage in an act of worship today?

Large Group Gathering

When all the kids have gathered, start with singing “All His Promises.” Tell the kids that in today’s Bible story we’ll be hearing about how God kept the promise that he made to David in our Bible story last week. Today we are going to hear about how David’s son, Solomon, built a temple to be a place where God’s people could worship.

Sing the Old Testament books of the Bible Song. For now, you might choose to sing just through the first half of the song and then repeat that a number of times before you move on to singing through the whole song. The goal is to have a good handle on the first half of the Old Testament books (Genesis through Ecclesiastes) by the end of this unit.

Introduce the great big word for today “WORSHIP” -- Singing, praising, reading God’s holy word, and participating in anything that honors God. Tell the kids that when you gather for closing today you are planning to have a time of worshipping God together and will sing songs that they request.

Collect the offering and dismiss students to their classes.

Preschool

Materials List:

- Large boxes of various shapes and sizes covered in gold wrapping paper
- Spark Story Bible
- Picture of a shofar
- Sunday School CDs 1&2
- CD Player
- Enough copies of shofar outline on printed cardstock for each child
- Party blowers (1 per child and teacher)
- Scissors (1 per child if possible)
- Tape (regular and double stick)
- Glue
- Markers or Crayons
- Optional: Matching Game Pictures

Before the Children Arrive:

Push all of the chairs and tables out of the way so that you can gather with children on the floor. Make sure that boxes are gathered and wrapped. Pull the paper piece off each of the party blower so all that is left is the plastic part and set these aside for today's activity.

Experiencing the Story and Skill Building:

As students enter the room, invite them to gather with you on the floor. Play for a while with the boxes you have prepared. How tall of a tower can your class build? Can they make a structure big enough to crawl through?

After a few minutes, tell the kids that this week our story tell them that today's story is about how God kept his promise- David's son got to build a temple. Tell the kids that the temple was a place kind of like really, really, really big church where God's people could come and worship God. Today we are going to read about David's son, Solomon, building the temple. Have the children help you put the blocks away in the corner of the room until later. If kids are worried about not getting to play with them again, assure the kids that they will have another chance a little later on in the class time.

Read “Solomon Builds The Temple” Spark Storybook Bible (pages 136-139). As you open the storybook Bible, talk aloud about how this story comes from the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament. (Let the kids overhear you finding the story as you flip first past the story of Adam and Eve and Abraham and Joseph and Moses all the way to where Solomon builds the temple. After reading the story, talk with the kids about the word of the day - WORSHIP. Do they remember what the word WORSHIP means? When and where do they worship?

Sometimes people use instruments to praise God when they worship. In our church we use a piano and an organ almost every Sunday. In Bible times, back when Solomon built his temple, one of the common instruments that was used was called a shofar. Even today in some parts of the world people play shofars to praise God. Show the kids a picture of a shofar. A shofar is an instrument made from a ram’s horn. It’s played by blowing it kind of like a trumpet. The shofar is blown three short times followed by a longer blow as a call to action. Play the shofar sound effect for the kids.

Activity: Make a Shofar¹

Have students cut out their shofar shape. Show them how to wrap the shofar shape around the plastic piece of a party blower. As the children work, play the shofar music (Sunday School CD 2). Let kids decorate their shofars as others finish.



When everyone has finished making their shofars, have kids work together to build the biggest structure that they can with the golden brick blocks. As they work to put together their block structure recap the story about Solomon building the temple and talk about how excited everyone must have been to get to worship in the beautiful temple! When the “temple” has been built, play the song on Sunday School CD 1 - The Dedication of Solomon’s Temple. Tell kids that we are going to pretend that we are there when people get to worship in the temple Solomon made for the first time. How excited the people must have been. Let’s blow our shofars to show how excited we are to worship God!

Invite the class to march around the “temple” you’ve built, blowing their shofars! (Let kids take their shofars to closing to show the bigger kids!)

¹ joyfuljewish.wordpress.com

Additional Activities:²

1. Matching Game

If you have extra time you can help kids make the connection that our church is a place where we come to worship. Use a deck of cards that have two identical pictures of the following things in your church with the word printed under it. As kids play the matching game, say “Great! You found the... *pulpit*. Do you know where the other *pulpit* is? Oh, that one is a *pew*.” etc. This way, kids will begin to learn some of the terms for the items in our worship space. Pictures that could be included are:

pulpit	lectern
pew	altar
hymnal	bulletin
sanctuary	candles
parament	cross

2. Learn a Rhyme:

Our Church

This is our church building,
(Point to surroundings)
God's holy place.
(Point up)
Where we worship and sing,
And give thanks for His grace.
(Fold hands in prayer, bow head)

3. Check for Comprehension:

Ask kids the following questions about today's stories.

- Who is the king in this Bible story? (Solomon)
- What did Solomon build? (The temple)
- The Temple was the house of... (God)
- What do we call our house of God (Church)
- Why do we come to church (To worship, learn about God, study the Bible, etc.)

² All extra activities come from Warner Press



Shofar



a ram's horn trumpet

Early Elementary

Materials List:

- Deck of playing cards (or sturdy index cards)
- Spark Story Bible
- 10 Envelopes
- Copy of treasure hunt clues
- Tape
- 2 Sticky Notes
- Regular Bible (like one of the black ones we use during church)
- Cross shaped suckers, candy with Bible verses printed on it, and/or other sweet treats
- Treasure chest or paper bag with the word “treasure” on it
- Optional: CD player and Sunday School CD & worship space matching game

Before the Students Arrive:

Set out a deck (or two) of playing cards or index cards. Cut up the treasure hunt clues and put one in each envelope. Hide each of the envelopes in the appropriate place in the church according to the clue. Put a sticky note on the outside of the regular Bible that says “Colossians 1:26-27.” Inside the Bible, next to those verses put a second sticky note with the words: “Christ is our true treasure--- sweeter than anything else in life. Go to the sacristy, the room in the church where things used in worship are prepared. There you will find a reminder of the sweetness of worshiping God!” Stash the Bible somewhere near the cross at the front of the church.

Experiencing the Story/Skill Building:

Invite students into the room and begin building your own house out of a deck of cards. Invite the students to join in and see how they can do at building their own structures. After they have had a chance to try their hands at their own building for a while, tell the students that today’s lesson is going to be about Solomon, David’s son who built a really, really big structure. Solomon got to build a temple. Set the playing cards aside and talk with the kids about the temple being a place where the people went to worship God. Solomon used things a little bit more sturdy than cards. He used big stones and huge pieces of wood cut from trees. He even used gold to make the temple beautiful for God.

As you open the storybook Bible, talk aloud about how this story comes from the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament. (Let the kids overhear you finding the story as you flip first past the story of Adam and Eve and Abraham and Joseph and Moses all the way to where Solomon builds the temple.

Read “Solomon Builds the Temple” from the Spark Story Bible (pages 136-139). After reading the story, discuss the question on page 139. “The people worshipped God in the temple to feel close to God. Where do you feel close to God?”

Talk with the kids about our church as a place where we come to worship God. Remind kids that worship means singing, praying, reading God’s holy word, and participating in anything that honors God.

Activity: Treasuring of Our Place of Worship

Tell the kids that today we are going to go on a scavenger/treasure hunt to learn more about our church as our place of worship. Tell the class that we will work together to track all of the clues. Begin by presenting the class with an envelope containing clue #1. Assist the kids with reading the clue if needed. Part of the goal for this activity is to help kids learn the vocabulary of worship, so after they read the clue, encourage them to name the item out loud. If they don’t know the name, but can guess the location, have them go to the spot and then read out loud the name. (If your group has a lot of kindergartners and few of the older elementary grades, you may want to think ahead to how you could provide further hints on the spot if they are needed. You may especially want to look ahead to the final clue where the word is “sanctuary.” If you doubt that your kids will be able to guess the word you may want to arrange the letters for them and then start sounding it out slowly to help them guess.)

CLUE #1- I am the piece of paper that the ushers hand out to everyone who comes to the worship service on Sunday morning. You use me to tell which page numbers to flip to in the song books. You can also use me to follow along with the prayers we say in church and to find out about special events and announcements each week. I am a (bulletin). Where would you find me on Sunday morning? Go there to find your next clue.

CLUE #2- Good job! You found the bulletins! Now you'll be able to find the right pages when you use me to sing the songs! I'm a (hymnal). Where would you find me? Go there to find your next clue.

CLUE #3- Awesome! You found the hymnal. There are actually a lot of hymnals in the church, aren't there! Each and every seat in the church has one. I should know, I am one! I have a special name, though. I'm a (pew). Look underneath me for your next clue.

CLUE #4- Sitting in the pew there is lots to see. Every Sunday in fact, you see me. I'm big and made of wood. I look a little bit like a table, especially when I am set up for communion and have bread and wine sitting on me. I have a fancy name too. I'm an (altar).

CLUE #5- Great! You found the altar. The pastor stands here when leading the people in saying prayers. But the pastor usually stands someplace else when preaching the sermon. The place the pastor stands then is called the (pulpit). Go there and you'll find the next clue!

CLUE #6- The pastor isn't the only one who speaks from the front of the church. Often times older kids and adults also come up front to read from the Bible. The place where these Bible passages are read from is called a (lectern).

CLUE #7- There are many other jobs that people do to help prepare for worship. An acolyte is a person who lights the (candles) just before worship begins. Our church has them just like Solomon's temple did!

CLUE #8- Candles are one of the things that sit on the altar. If you look carefully around there are some other things that are sometimes on the altar or on the pulpit or on the lectern. They change colors with the different seasons of the church year. On Easter, Christmas and a few other special holidays they are white. On Pentecost and Reformation day they are red. During advent (the time leading up to Christmas) they are blue. Most of the year, though, they are green. They are called paraments. Look under one of them to find the next clue.

CLUE #9- This item you shouldn't have any problem guessing. It's at the front of the church to be a reminder of Jesus and his gift to us. It's a (cross).

CLUE #10- Awesome! You're almost done! So far you've found the bulletins, the hymnals, the altar, pulpit, lectern, candles, paraments, and the cross. Most of these things have been in the same room. Do you know the name of this room in our church? If you need a clue, unscramble these letters. (Hint: It is also a word that can mean "a place of safety.") When figure out the name, your teacher will give you directions to your treasure! It's (sanctuary)!

Teacher, when the students solve the final clue, give them a Bible with a sticky note on the outside of the Bible with the reference Colossians 1:26-27 written on it. Provide what help is needed for students to look up the reference and read the verse. Then direct them to read the final sticky note on which you have written: "Christ is our true treasure--- sweeter than anything else in life. Go to the sacristy, the room in the church where things used in worship are prepared. There you will find a reminder of the sweetness of worshiping God!"

In the sacristy have a treasure chest or a paper bag marked "treasure" that is filled with enough candy for the whole class to have some. Ideally, you could use candy in the shape of a cross or candy from a Christian bookstore that has Bible verses printed on it.

Additional Activity:

If you have time after completing the treasure hunt, go back to your classroom and eat the candy while playing a review game. This could be playing a matching game with pictures of the places you have just visited on your scavenger hunt (see Preschool additional activity for details).

Another good use for extra time would be to practice the books of the Bible you have learned up to this point. Sing the Old Testament Books of the Bible song or challenge each other to see how many of the names when you are working together as a class.

You may also choose to review the story of Solomon building the temple and everything else you've learned this year. Pull out the deck of cards you used earlier and challenge the kids to build a structure as big as they can together as a class. The twist to this challenge is that you take turns going around the room to place each card. For each card put on the structure, have the student tell you one thing that they've learned so far in Sunday School this year.

Treasure Hunt Clues

Hand this clue to students in an envelope in your classroom:

CLUE #1- I am the piece of paper that the ushers hand out to everyone who comes to the worship service on Sunday morning. You use me to tell which page numbers to flip to in the song books. You can also use me to follow along with the prayers we say in church and to find out about special events and announcements each week. I am a _____. Where would you find me on Sunday morning? Go there to find your next clue.

Put this clue in an envelope hidden where the bulletins are:

CLUE #2- Good job! You found the bulletins! Now you'll be able to find the right pages when you use me to sing the songs! I'm a _____. Where would you find me? Go there to find your next clue.

Put this clue in an envelope hidden next to a hymnal:

CLUE #3- Awesome! You found the hymnal. There are actually a lot of hymnals in the church, aren't there! Each and every seat in the church has one. I should know, I am one! I have a special name, though. I'm a _____. Look underneath me for your next clue.

Tape this clue under one of the pews:

CLUE #4- Sitting in the pew there is lots to see. Every Sunday in fact, you see me. I'm big and made of wood. I look a little bit like a table, especially when I am set up for communion and have bread and wine sitting on me. I have a fancy name too. I'm an _____.

Put this clue on the table altar:

CLUE #5- Great! You found the altar. The pastor stands here when leading the people in saying prayers. But the pastor usually stands someplace else when preaching the sermon. The place the pastor stands then is called the _____. Go there and you'll find the next clue!

Hide this clue in/on the pulpit:

CLUE #6- The pastor isn't the only one who speaks from the front of the church. Often times older kids and adults also come up front to read from the Bible. The place where these Bible passages are read from is called a _____.

Hide this clue on/in the lectern:

CLUE #7- There are many other jobs that people do to help prepare for worship. An acolyte is a person who lights the _____ just before worship begins. Our church has them just like Solomon's temple did!

Hide this clue near a candle:

CLUE #8- Candles are one of the things that sit on the altar. If you look carefully around there are some other things that are sometimes on the altar or on the pulpit or on the lectern. They change colors with the different seasons of the church year. On Easter, Christmas and a few other special holidays they are white. On Pentecost and Reformation day they are red. During advent (the time leading up to Christmas) they are blue. Most of the year, though, they are green. They are called _____. Look under one of them to find the next clue.

Hide this clue on the back of one of the paraments:

CLUE #9- This item you shouldn't have any problem guessing. It's at the front of the church to be a reminder of Jesus and his gift to us. It's a _____.

Put this clue and each of the cut-out letters below in an envelope near/under/behind a cross in the front of the church:

CLUE #10- Awesome! You're almost done! So far you've found the bulletins, the hymnals, the altar, pulpit, lectern, candles, paraments, and the cross. Most of these things have been in the same room. Do you know the name of this room in our church? If you need a clue, unscramble these letters. (Hint: It is also a word that can mean "a place of safety.") When figure out the name, your teacher will give you directions to your treasure!

It's _____!

S A N C

T U A R Y

Upper Elementary/Middle School

Materials List:

- Spark NRSV Bible for each student
- One copy of the book Solomon's Temple Model (2006) Candle Books
- Glue

Before the Students Arrive:

Look through the book about Solomon's temple ahead of time so that you are familiar with what it contains and any particular parts you would like to point out to the class as they flip through it. Look at the model assembly so that you have a basic idea of how to help the kids start putting together their model.

Experiencing the Story/Skill Building:

Gather students into the classroom as quickly as possible today. (You are going to need all the time you can get!) Remind students about the story that they read last week about David wanting to build God a temple and God saying, "no." This week, God says "yes" to the building of a temple. David's son, Solomon gets to build the temple.

Have students open their Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 5. This is one of the places where we start to read of Solomon making preparations for building the temple. Actually the story is told a couple of places in the Bible. The books of Kings and Chronicles tell some of the same stories in both places. We are going to read, though, out of the book of 1 Kings.

Tell the students that Solomon wanted to build this huge temple for God. But there weren't enough materials of stone and wood in his kingdom to build that big a structure. So Solomon made friends with the king of another country to get enough materials. Solomon promised to pay the other nation with a lot of wheat and oil. He also made the people of his own kingdom work like slaves to build the temple, but he only made people from the northern 10 tribes to work.

(Notice on the map where Jerusalem is in the area that was the south.) Read verses 5:11-13 where it talks about this. Ask students if they think this was a good idea. If needed, help students think through why these solutions to building the temple might be a problem in the long run. If they get that point,

have them write something like “Oh, no!” or “Not a good idea” in the margin. Let students know that we will hear about what trouble this causes later.

Read through 1 Kings 6:11-22 with the class. Discuss what their impressions are of what the temple would have looked like. Have them write adjectives they think would describe the temple (like beautiful, humongous, etc.) in the margin of their Bible next to this passage.

Activity:

Show the class the book about Solomon’s Temple. Walk through the pages with them about the tabernacle that was God’s home with the people as they traveled in the wilderness and how this was replaced by the temple.

Starting on page 10 are some images of what the temple would have looked like. Especially make note to tell the kids that the Ark of the Covenant (the special box that the people carried the 10 commandments in) was put into a special area of the temple called the “Holy of Holies.” Show the kids where this was located on page 11 of the book. Read the note about the Holy of Holies in their Spark Bibles in the orange box at the bottom of the page 371. There’s more information about the Holy of Holies on page 15 of the Temple book. A fun fact for the kids might be that the Ark of the Covenant was so holy because of God’s presence with it that anyone who touched it died. When the priest went into the Holy of Holies, where the ark was and where God’s presence was, they would tie bells and a rope around him so that people could tell if he was still alive, and if he wasn’t, that they could pull him back out without having to go into the presence of God themselves!

Let kids flip through the pages and look at some of the information about Solomon’s temple in the book.

Then show the kids that the back of the book has punch out pieces to build a model of the temple. Work together as a class to build as much of the temple as you can. If you aren’t able to get it all finished during class, decide whether you want to keep this as an ongoing class project or if one of the students should take it home to finish up and bring back for the class the next week.

Large Group Closing

After the kids have gathered, ask the preschool class about the instruments that they have brought with them. Invite the class to tell the older kids what the name of the instrument is and how they were used in Bible times. (The instruments are called shofars and were used as a call to action. They were and are still used in some places to call people to worship.)

Tell the kids that you are so glad that they got a chance to learn about Solomon building a temple so that God's people would have a place to worship. We don't live in the same place or time as Solomon, and our church isn't as big as the temple that Solomon built, but we can still worship God and God hears our praise! Have the preschoolers blow their shofars. Let's worship together!

Lead off with your favorite upbeat, worshipful Sunday School song and then ask the kids which songs they want to sing. Sing as many as you have time for.