

Week 50 Solomon Builds the Temple

Series: **Solomon**

Application: **God deserves the best we have.**

Memory Verse: **D2 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God.” James 1:5**

D3 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

Preparation Notes

God gave Solomon wisdom as he had requested. He also gave Israel a time of peace and all their enemies stayed away. Solomon used this time to build a temple for God. He used the best of everything to build the temple. The wood came from Cedar trees from Lebanon. Solomon asked King Hiram of Tyre, who had been friends with his father David, if he would cut down the trees and float them on the sea down the coast to Solomon’s men. In return for this, Solomon provided food for King Hiram’s royal household. Solomon conscripted thousands of Israelite men to cut large blocks of stone and carry them to Jerusalem.

The temple took seven years to build. The inside was about 27m long, 9m wide and 13.5m high, and like the tabernacle it had a ‘Most Holy Place’ for the Ark of the Covenant, and a ‘Holy Place’ where people could come to worship God. Many beautiful things were made for the temple including a golden altar, a golden table and ten pure gold lamp stands.

When everything was finished, Solomon summoned all the elders and heads of the Israelite families to come to Jerusalem. The priests and Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant to the temple and placed it in the Most Holy Place. When the priests withdrew a cloud filled the temple (God’s presence).

Solomon said a prayer to dedicate the temple to God and many sacrifices were offered.

The Lord appeared to Solomon and made a covenant with him; if Solomon followed all God’s commands and worshipped only Him, then Solomon’s descendants would always be on the throne of Israel, but if Solomon turned away from God then the land would be taken away from the Israelites.

Learning Points (Discoverers 1)

- Solomon built a temple for God
- The Ark of the Covenant was brought to the temple.

Learning Points (Discoverers 2)

- Solomon built a temple for God
- The Ark of the Covenant was brought to the temple
- God made a covenant with Solomon.

Learning Points (Discoverers 3)

- Solomon built a temple for God
- The Ark of the Covenant was brought to the temple (God's presence)
- God made a covenant with Solomon
- We are temples for God and the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Discoverers 1

Bible Bit.

Build a temple from building blocks as you tell the story.

Suggested Activities.

Allow the children to build temples of their own. Try to get them to do this as well as they possibly can.

Discoverers 2

Bible Bit.

Use the large temple picture, DWK50:1, as you describe the beautiful temple that Solomon built. Talk about how we can do our very best for God, not just at church, but in everything we do.

Suggested Activities.

Make the temples (DWK50:2).

Discoverers 3

Bible Bit.

As you tell the children, use the children to be parts of the temple, i.e. one child for each corner, two for the pillars etc. Use this to link in the idea that we are temples for God and that just as God's presence was in the temple (the ark), so the Holy Spirit is in us.

Suggested Activities.

Using lining paper and the children working in pairs, they can draw round each other, cut out the picture of themselves, and write on the verse 1 Corinthians 3:16.

Talk time.

- Draw as many parallels as possible between Solomon's temple and us, and how both are filled with God's presence.

Prayer and worship.