



LESSON 3

BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8

GOD'S BIG STORY: Solomon fulfills the wish of his father, King David, to build God a temple. The Israelites celebrate the completed temple—God's presence forever dwells with His people!

WORD OF WONDER: Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10a

- Play Stations:
- Animal Matchup
- Building
- Building of the Temple Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Explore Building Materials
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 46:10a
- God's Big Story Video
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story Script
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: A Taller Temple
- Craft: Make a Temple
- Game: Build It Relay



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10a

As I said goodbye to my daughter and watched her walk away, about to begin her first day at a new high school, I begged God, "Please be with her," to which God instantly replied, "I am always with her." I felt silly. I had asked God the wrong thing. I prayed once more, "God, help my daughter to know that You are with her today."

How different would life be if we lived each day like we knew that God was with us, that His Holy Spirit dwells within us, that God walks where we walk and goes where we go? What would you share with God? Would you pray more expectantly? Would you worry less? Would you sing a little louder? Act a little bolder?

From the beginning, it was always God's intention to be a God who is near to us, a God who is accessible, a God we can approach. Read 1 Kings 8, paying attention to Solomon's posture toward God as God draws near to His people and lets His glory fill the temple. How did Solomon react? How did he pray? How did he praise? What can we learn from Solomon's prayer of dedication in verses 22–53? How can we live fully aware of God's presence dwelling within us?

—Ingrid Griggs

Children's Ministry Leader

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Solomon, David's son, had the honor of building the Lord's temple. David wanted to build the temple, but because he had shed so much blood, God didn't allow it. Instead, Solomon, who reigned during peacetime, was the one to build a temple for the Lord.

WHAT?

During the dedication of the temple, the ark of the covenant was brought in. The ark was a box covered in gold, representing God's footstool. It linked God's presence in the temple with His presence in the heavenly realm.

WHERE?

The ark was placed in the Most Holy Place, the inner room of the temple where God's presence dwelled. No one was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place except for the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement.

WHEN?

Solomon spent seven years building the temple, conscripting work from his own people and from King Hiram of Tyre. It was built according to the instructions God gave David (1 Chronicles 28). The temple was filled with gold, cedar, and beautiful carvings.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

The temple was a way for God to dwell among His people. This would take on new meaning when the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14). Through Jesus, God showed us His glory, for Jesus is God with us!

LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10a

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only); variety of wooden, plastic, or magnetic building blocks; toy tools; construction hats and vests (optional); coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: *Animal Matchup Cards (1 card per kid), Building of the Temple Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)*

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Animal Matchup

Set up: Ahead of time, print and cut apart a set of Animal Matchup Cards. Make sure you have enough for each kid to have one card. You'll use these cards again in the Closing Game. If you have more than 16 kids, you can print multiple copies and have multiple matches.

Play: Invite the kids to look at the pictures and find the animals that go together, matching the grown-up animal with its baby animal. For example, if they have a cat, see if they can find the kitten. As the kids are putting the animal matches together, talk about how God is our Father and we are His children, and He wants us to be together too!

**Play Station: Building**

Set up: Provide a variety of wooden, plastic, or magnetic building blocks and toy tools. Add in construction hats and vests, if available.

Play: Encourage the kids to use their creativity to build a big, beautiful building. Tell them that a long time ago, God's people built a big, beautiful building called a temple. The temple was a place where God's people could meet with Him and worship Him.

Play Station: Building of the Temple Coloring Sheet

Set up: Print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a place we can worship God.

Curiosity Activity: Explore Building Materials

SUPPLIES: cardboard boxes or bricks, various building materials (small pieces of wood and different types of stones), home improvement store advertisements (optional)

Set out cardboard boxes or bricks. Show a collection of various building materials, including small pieces of wood and different types of stones to spark kids' curiosity and conversation. These materials can be from the outdoors and don't have to be purchased. You may want to share a printed advertisement from a local home improvement store to provide pictures of more building materials.

We're talking about someone who built a cool building a long, long time ago. Have you ever seen a building being built? What tools and materials do the builders use? Allow the kids to look at and hold the materials, then have them pass the materials around for everyone to see. Ask if the kids can explain why someone would want to use things like wood and stones to build a building. Look at the advertisement, if available, and ask if the kids see anything else that could be used to make a building. Give the kids time to explore the materials and share their thoughts.

Let kids use the boxes to pretend to build something. They can use whatever materials you have available in your room.

Today we'll learn about a man in the Bible named Solomon. Solomon used materials like these to build a great, big temple for God! The temple he built was a large, beautiful building where people could be with God and worship Him. Solomon built the temple so God would dwell with His people, or live with them and be close to them. God dwells with us too! That means that God is with always us.

Leader Tip: If a variety of building materials are not available, walk around the room with the kids and point out different features of the building you're in. Ask if they can tell which building materials were used (wood, metal, plastic, glass, etc.) to spark curiosity and conversation.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors (prep only), pen or marker (prep only), tape, posterboard (optional)

WORD OF WONDER
Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a

Ahead of time, cut nine large rectangles from construction paper. On each paper rectangle, write one word of the Word of Wonder: Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10a. Choose an open space on the wall or tape a blank posterboard to the wall. The posterboard is where you and the kids will tape the words to make the shape of a temple.

Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from Psalm 46:10a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Open a Bible to Psalm 46:10a and practice the verse with the kids.



We're learning today about Solomon building the temple. That shows that God wants to be with His people. We don't need a temple because God's presence is with us when we trust in Jesus. Our Word of Wonder reminds us to be still and know God. When we're still, we can become more aware of God's presence with us. He wants us to know and remember that He is here with us. Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STILL**,—Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.
- **AND KNOW**—Point to your head.
- **THAT I AM GOD**.—Point up.
- **PSALM 46:10a**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.

We're going to use the words from our Word of Wonder to build a paper temple on the wall.

These word papers will be like the bricks we use to build our temple. Point out the area of the wall or posterboard where you'll be building your paper temple. Then hand one kid the paper rectangle with the first word on it ("Be"). Say the word aloud as you hand it to the kid, then have all the kids say the word with you. Let the kid tape the word onto the wall or posterboard. Then hand another kid the second word ("still"). Say the word aloud, then have all the kids say it too. Let the kid put the second word onto the wall or posterboard.

Then say these first two words ("Be still") together as a group. Give another kid the third word ("and"), say the word aloud, and have all the kids say the third word with you. Then let the kid add this word to the temple on the wall and have the group say all three of these words together in order ("Be still, and").

Continue this process with each word of the verse, saying all the words in order each time a word is added to the temple on the wall. At the end, when the group says the entire verse together, the temple will be complete! Then have the kids say the whole verse with you and repeat it a few times together. Congratulate them on learning the verse and building a paper temple to remind us of the story.

Leader Tip: Many kids at this age may not read well yet, but they can be great at memorizing! Be sure to say each word aloud for the kids and repeat them together as you hand them out. Rather than expecting the group to read the verse from the wall, be sure to lead them in saying the verse (or partial verse) each time. Even if kids can't read the words yet, repeating them together will help the kids commit the verse to memory.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Who is someone you like to be close to? How do you think God feels when we spend time with Him?**
- **How does it make you feel when you hear that God wants to be with you?**

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO
Watch the God's Big Story Video as
kids eat their snacks!



Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

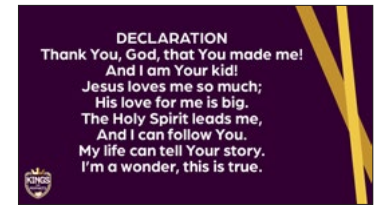
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for loving us so much! You are our good Father who loves spending time with us. We thank You for always teaching us and being with us through Your Holy Spirit. You are welcome here, and we want to worship You today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how God dwells with His people. Let's sing together and praise God because He is with us!

Play songs from the [Closer, Over & Over](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read 1 Kings 8:13–20 from the Bible. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: paper or toy crowns (3), cardboard boxes (varying sizes), toy tool set

Choose three kids to play Saul, David, and Solomon. Set aside the three paper or toy crowns, boxes, and a toy tool set.

A long time ago, God's people, the Israelites, asked God for a king to lead them. Saul was the first king of Israel. Ask Saul to come up front and place a crown on his head. **After Saul, God chose David to be the next king.** Ask Saul to show a sad face and give back his crown. Then he can sit down. Have David come up and place a crown on his head. **King David made some mistakes, but he followed many of God's plans.** Ask David to fold his hands like he's praying. **David was a good leader for the Israelites. God promised David that someone from his family would always rule in Israel. David had a son named Solomon. When Solomon grew up, he became the king.** Ask Solomon to come up front and ask David to remove his crown, then hand the last crown to Solomon. David can sit down.

King Solomon built a temple—a special, big, beautiful building—where people could come and worship God. Hand the boxes and toy tools to Solomon and ask him to pass them out to all the other kids. Let everyone use the boxes and tools to build a pretend temple together. Then encourage everyone to sit back down for the rest of the story. **King Solomon knew something very important: God is bigger than any building! God didn't need a house. God had created the whole world! But God promised to spend time with His people in the temple. The people could come to the temple to be close to God and to worship Him.**

When they had finished building the temple, Solomon invited God's people to come. They had a big celebration! Encourage everyone to raise their hands in the air and wave them around in celebration! **Solomon prayed to God, and God's presence filled the temple. The glory of God filled the whole temple like a cloud.** Encourage kids to wave their fingers through the air and imagine a cloud all around them. **God dwelled in the temple. That means God was there with His people. The people could worship God and spend time in His presence in the temple. King Solomon knew that God's presence was there with them in the temple. And God kept His promises and did everything He said He would do!**

Do we need a temple to be with God? Encourage kids to shake their heads "no" with you. **No! God has made a different way for us to be with him. Many years after Solomon was King, Jesus came and died on the cross, and He came back to life again, so we could be close with God.** Encourage kids to wrap their arms around themselves in a hug. **Then God sent His Holy Spirit so that anyone who believes in Jesus can always have God's presence with them. God is always with us. We can talk with Him anywhere, at any time. God loves His people and stays close to them. God dwells with His people!**

Leader Tip: Not being chosen for a special role can be tough for some kids. Consider using a set of craft stick, with each kid's name written on one stick. Pull names from the collection of sticks to ensure kids have an equal chance for participation.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask kids the following question to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

In God's big story today, we saw that the temple was a way for God to dwell among His people. The temple was where people could go to be with God. But do we have a temple today? Allow kids to respond.

We don't have a temple now. But when Jesus came, God came to live here on earth. He came to be with His people in Jesus. Now, God sends His Holy Spirit to be with us, and He lives inside us. If we believe in Jesus, God dwells in us. That means everywhere we go, He's always with us!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for always being with us.

God, thank You for loving us so much that You always want to be with us! Thank You for making the way for us to be with You forever through Jesus. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God's blessing be on you today and every day. May you remember that God's presence dwells in you. May you have joy and peace, knowing that God created you, and He wants to be with you always!

Circle Time: A Taller Temple

SUPPLIES: wooden stacking blocks

Ahead of time, use wooden stacking blocks to create a “temple” or tower.

Have the kids gather in a circle around the wooden block temple.

God promised King David that his son, Solomon, would build a temple—a big, beautiful house for God to dwell in. God’s presence would be in the temple, and His people could go there to be with Him and worship Him. And God kept His promise! After Solomon became the king of Israel, he and the people built a beautiful temple for God.

Draw kids’ attention to the temple in the middle of the circle. **Look at this temple. I think it could be even taller! We’re going to try to make this temple even more magnificent! But we have one small problem. We’re out of blocks!**

To make it taller, we’ll go around the circle and take turns taking a block out from anywhere in the tower. Then we’ll add that block to the top. If the temple falls, we’ll answer a question before we rebuild it and then keep going. Are you ready?

Go around the circle and let kids take turns taking a block out of the lower part of the tower and adding it to the top. If the tower comes down, ask one of the following discussion questions. Let the whole group contribute to answering each question, so kids don’t feel like they’re put on the spot if they make the temple fall. Then encourage everyone work together to rebuild the temple quickly before continuing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was Solomon?** (*David’s son; the king of Israel after David*)
- **What did Solomon build?** (*God’s temple*)
- **Why did Solomon build a temple?** (*so God would have a place to dwell with His people*)
- **What does dwell mean?** (*to be with*)
- **Where does God dwell today?** (*with His people; with us; inside us through His Holy Spirit*)
- **Do we have to go to a temple, or to church, to be with God or talk with Him?** (*No, God is with us everywhere we go, all the time! We can talk with Him wherever we are, whatever we’re doing, any time!*)
- **How can we “be still” and remember that God is with us?**
- **What can help you remember that God is with you?**

God was happy to dwell with the Israelites, and He loves being with us too. God gives us the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God will live in us when we trust Jesus to save us. Let’s spend some time talking with God in prayer.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for being with and listening to us. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: Make a Temple

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per kid), marker or pen (prep only), craft sticks (4 per kid), glue, cotton balls, scissors or kid-safe scissors

Ahead of time, use a marker or pen to write the Wonder Truth, “God Dwells with His People” at the top of each sheet of cardstock (or print from a computer). You’ll need one for every kid.

When Solomon built the temple for God to dwell in, or live in, the people had a huge celebration! They thanked God for keeping His promises and for being near to His people. When the temple was finished, God’s presence filled the temple like a great, big cloud. Solomon knew that God was there in the temple with His people.



Today we get to make a temple to take home, to help us remember that God dwells with us! That means He is always with us.

Provide four craft sticks and one sheet of cardstock to each kid. Invite the kids to create a temple by gluing the sticks to the cardstock in the shape of a house. Show them how to glue two sticks vertically near the bottom of the sheet a few inches apart. Then they can glue the other two sticks in an upside-down V-shape on top of the vertical sticks to make the shape of a house. Kids can glue cotton balls onto the cardstock inside their temple to make a cloud, to remind them of God’s presence like a cloud in the temple.

If desired, kids or leaders can cut off the excess cardstock around the temple so that the entire sheet is house-shaped. If kids are cutting, ensure you have kid-safe scissors. The kids can take home their crafts as a reminder of God’s presence with them.

Leader Tip: If the kids in your group are confidently able to write or copy letters, you can provide the Wonder Truth written out on a whiteboard or a sheet of paper. Then kids can copy it onto their own cardstock. For kids who are learning to write, you can also use a highlighter to write out the words ahead of time, then show the kids how to trace your highlighted words with a pencil.

Game: Build It Relay

SUPPLIES: wooden or plastic blocks (at least 1 block per kid)

Divide your group into two or three smaller groups. Have the kids in each group stand in line facing the same direction. Beside each line, place a pile of wooden or plastic building blocks on a table or on the floor. There should be at least one block for each person in line, and every team should have the same number of blocks.

We're going to race to see which team can build a building like the temple the fastest. In 1 Kings 6:38, the Bible tells us it took Solomon seven years to build the temple! That's a really long time, but ours won't take that long.

When I say, "Go," the first person in line can take a block to the other side of the room. Show the kids exactly where they should take their blocks. Then that person will run back and go to the end of the line, and the next person in line can grab a block, take it to the other side of the room, and carefully stack it on top of the block that is already there. Keep going until all the blocks are used and the temple is complete.

Allow kids to play the game until all of the blocks are used. Then gather the kids and let them look at the temples that have been made.

Wow, these temples look great! Good job building, everyone! When Solomon built the temple, it took a lot of people and a long time. But God promised that Solomon would be king and that Solomon would build the temple. God kept His promises. The temple was a place where people could go to worship God and be with Him. Today we know that God is with us wherever we go! We know that **GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE.**