



LESSON 3

BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Presence Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8

GOD'S BIG STORY: Solomon builds a house—a temple—for God, fulfilling the promise God made to his father, King David. 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. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The LORD who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us. —Psalm 46:10–11

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Bears and Ballerinas
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Tallest Temple Challenge
- Welcome Question: Who would you want to spend a whole day with? What would you do?
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Holy
- Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Presence Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10–11

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 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group or Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Presence Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 8

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 46:10–11

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Kings and Prophets Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, [display the Temple Welcome Questions Slide](#) or write the following questions on a whiteboard: “Who would you want to spend a whole day with? What would you do?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name to your group. Let kids know how excited you are to spend time with them today! Direct kids to the Welcome Questions and help younger kids read it. Encourage kids to introduce themselves and share their answers with a neighbor. Some kids may choose to draw their responses.

At your start time ...

Snap your fingers or clap your hands to grab your group's attention and give a warm welcome. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Questions: **Who would you want to spend a whole day with? What would you do?**

Today in God's big story, we're going to hear about how God kept His promises, how a great, big temple was built for Him, and how we are always in His presence. But first, it's time to be curious!

OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Bears and Ballerinas

SUPPLIES: timer or stopwatch

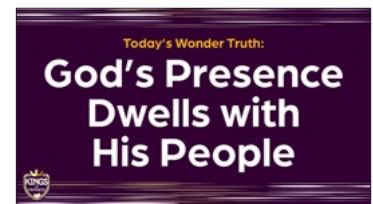
Display the **Bears and Ballerinas Slide** and gather the kids. **I have a challenge for you! Let's see how long you can dwell in a certain position. I'll give you a pose, like an animal, object, or person, and we'll see how long you can dwell in that pose. I'll set a timer for 30 seconds, and we'll see if you can stay in that pose the whole time. Are you ready?**



For each of the following positions, announce the pose and set a timer for 30 seconds. Let kids see if they can stay in that pose for the whole time without falling over or breaking the pose. Congratulate them on their efforts, even if they don't make it through the whole time!

- Dwell like a bear: Put your hands and feet on the floor with your bottom in the air.
- Dwell like a flamingo: stand on one foot.
- Dwell like a tree: Put one foot on top of the other and stretch out your arms in the air like giant tree branches.
- Dwell like a ballerina: Stand on your tippy-toes with your arms above your head.
- Dwell like a frog: Crouch down with your knees bent and your finger tips on the ground in front of you.

Great job, everybody! What was it like to try to stay in one position for a long time? Invite kids to respond. **Remind me: What does the word dwell mean?** Invite kids to respond. **To dwell means to stay in one place for a long time or to remain there. Today we'll hear about how God's people built Him a temple, a big house, for God to dwell in. A long time ago, people could go to the temple to be in God's presence. And we'll learn that today we can always be in His presence, because when we follow Jesus, God's Holy Spirit dwells in us. Display the Temple Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is GOD'S PRESENCE DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE.**



Make It Inclusive: When choosing poses for kids to dwell in, keep in mind the physical abilities of the kids in your group. Feel free to think of different poses that better fit your group's needs, so all kids are able to participate (such as poses that only use arms or holding facial expressions). Kids can also take turns naming different poses to dwell in.

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Tallest Temple Challenge

SUPPLIES: clothespins (25 per 3–6 kids), craft sticks (25 per 3–6 kids), cardboard or flat surface for building (1 piece or space per group), timer or stopwatch

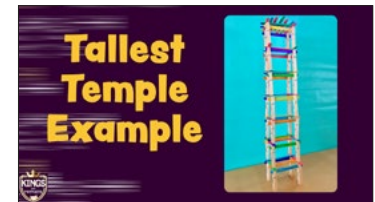
Display the **Tallest Temple Challenge Slide**. And help kids form teams of 3–6 kids. **Today I have a challenge for you! The challenge is for your team to work together and build the tallest temple in the room in the time allowed. However, you can only use the craft sticks and clothespins I give you. The team that builds the tallest temple during the allotted time wins.**

Display the **Tallest Temple Example Slide**. Point out the example on the slide and explain that groups can begin building with the clothespins and placing craft sticks on top of them. Distribute the clothespins and craft sticks to each team. Give a piece of cardboard to any team that isn't working on a hard surface, so they have a flat place to build their tall temple. Decide how much time teams will have to build and announce it to the group; then begin the timer as kids begin building.

Encourage kids to work together and enjoy being together as they build. Give announcements to warn them when they have three minutes, one minute, and 10 seconds remaining. When the time is up, examine each team's temple and announce a winner. If time allows, play a second round and challenge kids to rebuild their temples in a shorter amount of time.

The temples you built look great! Good job, everyone! What was challenging about building your temple? Invite kids to respond. **What seemed to work well in your group as you were building?** Invite kids to respond.

A long time ago, God's people built a real temple. It was a long and difficult process, but God had promised King David that his son would build a temple, a big house for God's presence to dwell in. Because God's presence dwelled, or stayed, near His people in the temple, people could go there to be in His presence and worship Him. Today we don't need to go to a physical temple. Today if we follow Jesus, we have God's Holy Spirit dwelling, or living, in us! God's presence is always with us! Display the Temple Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD'S PRESENCE DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE.**



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the Temple Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

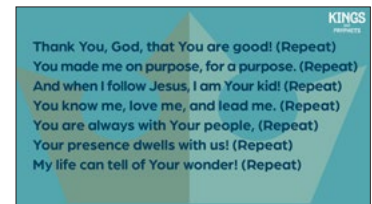
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You are always with Your people, (Kids repeat.)

Your presence dwells with us! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, You are here, and we thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that You are good, and You love spending time with us. As we listen today, prepare our hearts to know that You are with us always. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God is always with us! Let's worship Him now through music.

Play songs **Closer**, **Over & Over** and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Display the Temple Title Slide.

Explain that the book of 1 Kings is in the Old Testament and demonstrate how to find the book, chapter, and verse.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!

Watch god's Big Story Video

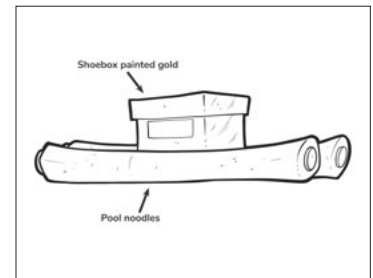


LESSON 3 BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: pool noodles (2), shoebox painted gold, tape, cardstock (1 sheet per kid), note cards (1 per 2 kids), scissors (prep only), marker (prep only), cardboard boxes (various sizes), glue (optional), adhesive name tags (1 per kid, optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Crown Sheet (1 per kid), Solomon's Prayer Slide NlrV

Ahead of time, create an ark of the covenant like the one shown here, using two pool noodles, a shoebox painted gold, and tape. Make a paper crown for every kid by printing copies of the Crown Sheet onto cardstock, cutting out the pieces, and attaching the bands to the crowns with glue or tape. Set the paper crowns on a table or on the floor near by. Use note cards to create name tags by cutting each note card in half, one half per kid. Alternatively, use adhesive name tags. Use the marker to label four name tags "Priest." With the rest of the name tags, create an equal number for each of the following: "Saul," "David," and "Solomon." If using note card name tags, have the tape ready for kids to tape their tags to their shirts. Gather cardboard boxes in various sizes.



Leader Tip: If an ark of the covenant was created for the Problems and Promises series, you can use it here.

Choose four volunteers and give them the four "Priest" name tags. Then distribute the "Solomon," "David," and "Saul" name tags equally among the rest of the group. (Note: "Solomon" is a role that is best for strong readers.) Let kids attach their name tags to their shirts.

You all get to play a part in today's story, so listen carefully for your part. I'll let you know what to do. Are you ready?

God's people, the people of Israel, asked God for a king so they could be like other nations. God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. Encourage all the kids playing Saul to come up and take a paper crown. Have them set their crowns on their heads before they sit back down. **But Saul disobeyed God. So God chose a man named David to be the next king of Israel.** Have kids playing Saul make a sad face. Then have them give their crowns to kids playing David. **Although David sinned too, he always turned back to God's way and served Him.** Invite kids playing David to fold their hands like they're praying. **God made a promise to David that someone from his family would always reign in Israel. For many years, David served God as king of Israel. He fought Israel's enemies and helped make Israel a safe land.** Have kids playing David raise their arms and shout, "Victory!" Then invite all kids to fold their hands and pretend to sleep in peace.

Leader Tip: If there are concerns about having kids share the same crowns, still have the "Sauls" give their crowns to the "Davids" and the "Davids" give their crowns to the "Solomons," but also give each kid a fresh crown to actually put on their heads.

After David, his son, Solomon, became king. Invite kids playing David to give their crowns to kids playing Solomon. **Solomon reigned during a wonderful time in the land of Israel. God was good to His people, and they were safe, secure, and united. One of the things God had promised David was that his son would be able to build a temple, or a house, for God. Solomon took on this job, building a beautiful temple where all of Israel could come to worship and offer sacrifices to the only true God.** Invite kids playing Solomon to come up and use the cardboard boxes to build a temple. Then have them sit back down.

Solomon and the people of Israel knew that God was too big and great to just live in a house—He had created the whole world! But they built Him one anyway, because God promised that He would dwell with the people so that they could worship and spend time in His presence.

On a very special day, the people of Israel gathered at the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate it to God and proclaim His goodness. Encourage all kids to fold their hands like they're praying.

Solomon had the priests bring the ark of the covenant to the temple. Invite the kids playing priests to stand and pick up the ark but remain in place. **The ark was an object that represented the presence of God. Inside it were the two stone tablets of the law that Moses had received from God at Mount Sinai. This was such an exciting time for all the people, and they sacrificed many animals in worship to God.**

Leader Tip: Consider explaining more about the Old Testament tradition of making sacrifices. A sacrifice is a special gift people gave to God, often by offering an animal, to show they were sorry for sin, to say thank you, or to worship Him.

The priests brought the ark to the innermost part of the temple, the Most Holy Place. They placed the ark there, where it would stay. Invite the kids playing priests to carry the ark to the center of the cardboard temple. Then have them sit back down.

When the priests left the Most Holy Place, the glory of God filled the whole temple as a cloud. No one could do anything in the temple because God's glory was everywhere! Invite all kids to run their fingers through the air and imagine there's a cloud all around them.

King Solomon knew that God's presence dwelled with them in the temple. He prayed, dedicated the temple, and blessed the people. He reminded them of God's promise to David—that He had freed the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt, given them a new land, and promised David that his son would build the temple.

Display the Solomon's Prayer Slide NIV. Invite kids playing Solomon to stand up and read the following text from the slide with you.



If using the NIV Slide: Solomon said, "The LORD has kept the promise He made. I've become the next king after my father David. Now I'm sitting on the throne of Israel. That's exactly what the LORD promised would happen. I've built the temple where the LORD will put his Name. He is the God of Israel" (1 Kings 8:20).

If using the NIV Slide: Solomon said, "The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel" (1 Kings 8:20 NIV).

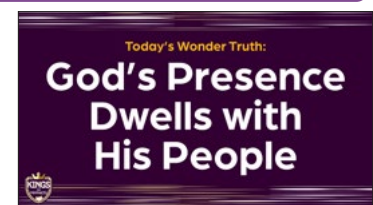
Invite kids playing Solomon to sit back down. God did everything He said He would do. He made David king, and then his son became king. He allowed Solomon to build Him a temple, and He came and dwelled in it so that the people of Israel could be in His presence and worship Him. Many years later, after God's Son, Jesus, died on a cross and rose again, God sent His Holy Spirit to everyone who believes in Him. Encourage all kids to make a cross with their index fingers, then bring it close against their hearts. Now when we follow Jesus, the Spirit of God lives in us! Our very bodies are "temples of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19a). Invite all kids to use their hands to make a temple roof shape above their heads. Many years ago, God's presence dwelled with His people in the temple King Solomon built. Now, through the Holy Spirit, God dwells in us! God's presence dwells with His people!

Thank kids for doing a great job playing their parts and allow all kids to take a paper crown home with them to remind them of today's God's big story.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Temple Wonder Truth Slide.

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



We saw today in God's big story that Solomon built a temple for God as a way for God to dwell with His people. In Israel, people could go to the temple to be in God's presence and to worship Him. Many years later, God's Son, Jesus, came and lived on earth and dwelled among His people. Through Jesus, God showed us His glory. Now, through the Holy Spirit, God's presence dwells in everyone who follows Jesus and puts their trust in Him.

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What amazed you most about this part of God's story? Remind kids that it took a long time to build the temple and give them time to think before asking for volunteers to answer.

Imagine that you're one of the priests standing in the temple. If suddenly an enormous cloud filled up the room, how would you react? Encourage kids to sit quietly for a moment and imagine how they might respond in that situation. Then ask for volunteers to share their thoughts.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.



***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

WORSHIP VIDEO: Holy

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids.

Blessing: May you always be aware of God's presence dwelling with you and in you through God's Spirit. May you remember that you can always talk with Him, and that you're never alone. And may you delight in worshipping and spending time with Him in all you do.