



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

- Welcome Question: Who would you want to spend a whole day with? What would you do?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: My Day with God
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Presence Prayers



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

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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

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

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say **"I'm curious.."** before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **What do you think it means to dwell?**
- **To dwell means to live or stay somewhere for a long time. What's the longest time you've stayed somewhere?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

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 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bible

Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series helps us remember that God’s presence is with us. He alone is God, and He deserves all honor and glory. We can be still and rest peacefully in God’s presence because we know that He loves us and is always with us. Let’s practice saying the verse together. Open your Bible to Psalm 46:10–11. Read Psalm 46:10–11 several times together.

Help your small group divide into two smaller groups. Invite everyone say the verses together with you. Then let the first group say verse 10, the words that God says (ending with “earth”), in a loud and bold voice. Then let the second group say verse 11, the words that are about God, in a voice filled with awe. Then invite the groups to switch. When one group is saying the verse aloud, the other group can “be still” as they listen.

God’s Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings, chapter 8. Explain that the book of 1 Kings is in the Old Testament and demonstrate how to find the book, chapter, and verse. When kids have found the passage in their own Bibles, encourage them to help the person next to them find the passage, until everyone is on the right page.

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

Divide the kids into two groups, ensuring that each group has a few strong readers and/or a leader. As you read 1 Kings 8:3–21 together, let one group read the first paragraph aloud while the other group follows along. Then let the second group read the next paragraph aloud while the other group follows

Elementary Questions

- **What does it mean to dwell?** (to stay somewhere for a long time, to remain)
- **Who built the temple? Why did he build it?** (King Solomon; God promised David that his son, Solomon, would get to build a temple for God to dwell in, so God would dwell with His people and His presence would be with them.)
- **What happened when the ark of the covenant came into the temple?** (God's glory filled the temple in the form of a cloud.)
- **What do you think it means for God's presence to dwell with us?** (God is always with us; we are never alone.)
- **Where does God's presence dwell today? Why do you think this is important?** (God's Spirit dwells in those who follow Jesus. He's always with us and can help us.)

God delights in dwelling with His people. He loves for us to be near to Him! He kept His promise that Solomon would build the temple so that God's people, the Israelites, could come into God's presence and worship Him. God also loves to dwell with us today. If we follow Jesus, we have God's Spirit living in us and dwelling with us. Let's talk with God and thank Him for always being with us and loving us so much!

Leader Tip: If needed, help kids understand that God's glory means His majesty, abundance, and awesomeness. He alone is God, and there is no one like Him!

Preteen Questions

- **Name some promises God made that He kept in today's part of God's big story. Why were these promises so special?** (God promised that David's son, Solomon, would be king and that Solomon would build the temple. David wanted to build a temple because He loved God and wanted to worship Him.)
- **Why did Solomon build a temple?** (The temple was a way for God to dwell with His people, the Israelites. It was a place where they could go to worship God.)
- **What happened when the ark of the covenant came into the temple?** (God's glory filled the temple in the form of a cloud.)
- **Is a building, like a temple or a church, the only place we can worship God? Why or why not?** (We can worship God anywhere! God loves it when we come together, like at church, to worship Him, and it's important that we worship together and encourage each other in our faith. But we can also worship God in our day-to-day lives throughout the week, in everything we do.)
- **How does God's presence dwell with us today?** (If we follow Jesus and trust in Him, God's Spirit dwells within us, lives in us, and helps us.)
- **How can your life be different if the Holy Spirit dwells in you?**

God delights in dwelling with His people. He loves for us to be near to Him! God kept His promise that Solomon would build the temple so that God's people, the Israelites, could be in God's presence and worship Him. God also loves to dwell with us today. If we follow Jesus, we have God's Spirit living in us and dwelling with us. Let's talk with God and thank Him for always being with us and loving us so much!

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to spread out around the room and close their eyes. Ask them to imagine God sitting next to them. Encourage them to take a few moments to pray silently and share with God whatever is on their minds. After a few minutes, close the prayer time by thanking God for hearing our prayers and helping us and for always being with each one of us.

Leader Tip: Allow kids to sit in the presence of God and talk with Him—there’s no rush! Remind kids that praying to God is simply talking with a friend—they can tell God anything.

LARGE GROUP

refer to large group leader guide

Elementary Responding in Worship: My Day with God

SUPPLIES: paper (3 sheets), coloring utensils, painter’s tape, note cards (3 per kid)

Ahead of time, use coloring utensils to write “Morning” on one sheet of paper and draw a picture of a rising sun. On the second sheet of paper, write “Afternoon” and draw a picture of a full sun. On the third sheet of paper, write “Night” and draw a picture of the moon. Use the painter’s tape to put the pictures on the wall in different parts of the room. At each picture, set out three note cards per kid and coloring utensils.

In God’s big story today, we heard about how God fulfilled His promises to King David. David’s son, King Solomon, built a temple for God to dwell in, so that the people could worship God and be in His presence at the temple in a special way. Today we don’t have a temple like Solomon and the Israelites did. But if we follow Jesus, God has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within us, so we are always in His presence, and He is always with us.

Are there any specific times in our day when you remember God is with you? Invite kids to respond. **Are there any specific places where you spend time with God?** Invite kids to respond. **Those are great times to remember God’s presence with us. What would you do if you could spend an entire day with God?** Invite kids to respond. **Actually, that’s a trick question ... We can already spend the entire day with God! Let’s take some time to think and pray about how we can do that.**

Leader Tip: If your group is large and it’s not possible to move with the kids to the “Morning,” “Afternoon,” and “Night” pictures, simply hold the pictures up from the front and have kids remain in the same spot as they draw on their three note cards.

Lead the group to the “Morning” picture, give each kid a note card, and have them write their name on the back. Encourage them to think about something they do every morning, or at least most mornings. Some possibilities might include eating breakfast, brushing their teeth, putting their shoes on, sitting in their seat at school, etc. Once kids have one activity in mind, let them draw a picture of themselves doing that activity on the front of their note card, with God with them. Some kids might want to draw a symbol next to their picture to represent God’s presence, like a cross or a heart. Other kids might want to draw something like God’s hands helping them, or Jesus doing the activity with them. Let them be creative and respond to God as they reflect and draw. When they’re finished, invite them to place their note card on the floor, beneath the “Morning” picture.

When kids are ready, lead the group to the “Afternoon” picture and repeat the same process. Encourage kids to think of something they do in the afternoons on most days and draw themselves doing that activity with God’s presence. Let them set their note cards beneath the “Afternoon” picture. Then lead the group to the “Night” picture and do the same again with an activity they do most nights.

Sometimes we come to church to spend time with God, or we might have a time with our family when we pray together. Those are great times to remember that God is present with us! But we can also remember that God is with us in everything we do, at any part of the day, all week long! That means we can pray and worship and thank Him even when we’re doing normal day-to-day things, like putting our shoes on, thinking about a test at school, coloring, playing a sport, or anything else. And, of course, God loves it when we have special times set aside for prayer and worship too.

At the end of the activity, encourage kids to collect their note cards and take them home to put near the places where they do the things they drew. This could mean putting them next to their shoes, in their school notebook, on a bathroom mirror, next to their bed, etc. When they go to do these activities, they can see the note cards and remember that God is with them.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Presence Prayers

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase marker, large sticky notes (4–5 per kid), writing utensils, posterboard or large sheet of butcher paper (optional), marker (optional), painter’s tape (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from the [Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, set up a whiteboard at the front of the room along with a dry-erase marker. Alternatively, you can tape a posterboard or large sheet of butcher paper to the wall and write on it with a marker.

Leader Tip: Some kids may have questions about what it means to follow Jesus and for the Holy Spirit to live inside them! Invite their families to join you as you talk and pray together. The Salvation Path resource also includes helpful Bible references and information.

In today's story, we heard about how God kept His promises for Solomon to build a temple, a place for God's glory and presence to dwell. We also learned today that if we follow Jesus, God's Holy Spirit dwells in us. That means that throughout all our days, we're never alone. We can talk with God anytime, anywhere, and about anything, because the God who created the whole universe is with each one of us. No matter where we are, we can practice God's presence. We can be aware that He is with us and experience His peace. Today we have a chance to create reminders for ourselves that as we go throughout our days, God is with us, and we can talk with Him. Let's start by thinking about some things we do every day.

Invite kids to name some things they usually do every day or at least most days. These could be things like brushing teeth, eating a meal, practicing piano or shooting a basketball, doing homework, washing hands, etc. If kids are willing, ask each kid to name one or two things. As each activity is named, write it on the whiteboard or posterboard.

That's a great list of things we do most days. As we do all of these things on this list, we can remember that God is with us. Even in the most normal, everyday tasks, we can talk with God and remember that He's there, that He loves us, and that we're never alone.

Ask kids to choose one thing from the list that they personally do most days. Give each kid a few large sticky notes and set out writing utensils.

As you think about doing the thing you've chosen, what's a short, one-sentence prayer that you could pray to remind you of God's presence? An example could be, "God, thank You that You go with me," as I put on my shoes before going somewhere. Or it could be a quick prayer that reminds you to play music or a sport with an attitude of worship and with a humble heart. Or if there's something difficult that you do regularly, it could be a quick prayer for God's help with that task. It could even be a line from a song—one you've made up or one you've heard before. The idea is to help us remember that as we go throughout each day, and as we do each of these things, God is with us, and we can talk with Him.

Give kids some time to think about a prayer or song lyric that will help them remember that God is with them. Try not to rush this time. If desired, play music from the [Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#) quietly in the background. Once kids have decided what their prayer will be, encourage them to write out the prayer on their sticky note. If they wish, they can write the same prayer on several sticky notes, so they can put them in various places where they will see it throughout the day (such as a desk, their locker at school, in their notebook, a bathroom mirror, wherever they keep their shoes, next to their bed, etc.).

After a few minutes, invite kids who would like to share their prayers with the group to do so. If your group is large, invite kids to pair up and to share their prayer with their partner, if they choose. Close with 10 seconds of prayer time when everyone is invited to pray the prayer they wrote down out loud at the same time.

Make It Inclusive: Consider writing several short, simple prayers on the whiteboard for kids to copy who might be overwhelmed at the idea of writing their own. For example, "God, thank You for being with me" and "God, please help me as I do this hard thing."