



THE GOSPEL PROJECT SR. UNIT 11.3 Soloman builds a temple

Date: Sunday May 17, 2026 **Teachers:** Mike S (lead), Nijel D (co-lead)

Bible Passage: 1 Kings 6–8 **Key Passage:** Proverbs 2:6-7

Props: from home: wooden blocks (Nijel)

At centre paper, pencils, activity sheet

Review Rules:

One Mouth speaking at a time (Teacher points to mouths/kids point to their mouths)

Two Hands kept to myself (kids wiggle hands and keep them to themselves)

Two Feet kept to myself (kids cross legs)

Speak Kind Words like our God 3 in One

ACROSTIC OF JESUS

Vicky

INTRO TO BIBLE STORY: *“God’s wants TO BE WITH US!”*

Mike

materials: (show google doc #1 of pics on computer/TV)

These are all examples of what? (homes/dwelling place) What does dwell mean? To live or reside in a specific place.

God’s goal from the beginning has been what? TO BE with us. Or, to DWELL with us. That’s what the garden in the beginning of the biblical story was about. It was where heaven and earth met, God’s realm and Humanity’s realm touched, Genesis tells us that they walked with God in the cool of the day.

But because of the rebellion of Adam and Eve, this heaven and earth place could no longer be, they were banished from the garden, but did God’s presence leave them? No. We read in the Scriptures that God made a covenant with Noah, and then with Abraham, to be their God and for them to be His people. A lot takes place before we hear about God’s presence showing up again in a fiery bush with Moses, and then when God leads His people out of slavery in Egypt, God’s presence goes with them by a ?(cloud) by day and a ? (fire) by night.

Then, God gave Moses instructions to build a tabernacle in the wilderness? Why? So, God’s presence could be with them. They were made for Him, so God wanted to BE WITH THEM.

In today’s story we are going to hear about a permanent place for God’s presence to dwell. Does anyone know what it is called? The Temple. Both the instructions given to Moses, and the instructions given to Solomon had all kinds of beautiful plants and wildlife, what is this supposed to make God’s people think of? Think back to the garden where God’s realm and our realm touched.

This is where we are in the Biblical story today...but spoiler alert, something better than the temple was going to happen.

When Jesus came to earth He was the temple (John 1) He DWELT (tabernacled/tented) among us. When Jesus ascended to the Father He gave us His Spirit, so that now WE are His mobile temples' Heaven and earth come together. Do we still need a temple to approach God? (He is our High Priest and we have his Spirit, so we can approach God anytime; Hebrews 4:14-16). And it still gets better.... Christ will come again and make all things new, and heaven and earth will be reunited again, and God will dwell with us, and He will be our God and we shall be His people.

Rev. 21: 1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

BIBLE STORY (VIDEO) SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

DISCUSSION VIDEO

Rachel

Do any of you have a friend who lives far away? Do you wish you could spend more time together? We don't have this problem with God, The temple was like a house for God to dwell with His people. Because of Jesus, God is with us even without the temple!

KEY PASSAGE VERSE:

Isaiah

***"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity."* Proverbs 2:6-7**

Say the verse teaching the hand motions below then slowly wipe away the corresponding sections and they have to say aloud whatever you point to on the body.

- Point to head—For the Lord gives wisdom;
- Point to mouth—from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- Stand up tall with hands on hips—He stores up success for the upright;
- Hold arms vertically in front of body like a shield—He is a shield for those who live with integrity.

DISMISS JR. KIDS

BIBLE STORY REVIEW: materials: (set of blocks divide into boys v. girls)

Nijel

If they answer correctly, use their block to start or add to a tower, if they get it wrong, they must return it to the block pile.

Questions:

How long did it take to complete the temple? (seven years, 1 Kings 6:38)

Who was allowed into the most holy place? (only the high priest, Hebrews 9:7)

When did God fill the temple with a cloud? (after the priests left the ark in the most holy place, 1 Kings 8:3-10)

Could the temple contain God? (No, God chose to dwell there, but He was not contained by it; 1 Kings 8:13,27)

Do we still need a temple to approach God? (No, Jesus died and rose again. He is our High Priest and we can approach God anytime; Hebrews 4:14-16)

God chose Solomon to build a temple where He would dwell with His people. With Jesus, we can have the Holy Spirit inside of us. That means God dwells with us everywhere we go!

ACTIVITY: "Blueprint" materials: (use construction paper/white paper, pencils)

Mike

Who knows what a blueprint is? It is a set of plans for how to construct a building. I'm going to give you an audible blueprint. Without looking at your neighbor's paper, listen carefully to the instructions and do exactly what I say. Then we'll compare your finished drawings.

Read the following instructions. Feel free to add or change steps to adapt to the ability of the group.

Draw a large rectangle.

Draw a triangle on top of the rectangle.

Draw a small rectangle inside the first one. Draw it in the middle on the bottom.

Draw three squares inside the large rectangle.

Draw a small rectangle coming out of the top of the triangle.

What do you think our blueprint is for? (a house) You all had the same instructions, so why did your drawings come out differently? In our story today, God gave His people specific instructions to build a very important building.

ACTIVITY: "Temple Quiz Group Challenge"

Nijel

materials: (3-4 copies of the Temple Quiz activity sheet)

Divide class into 3-4 groups and try to complete the temple quiz together. Go through the answers together after everyone completes it to determine the winner.

ACTIVITY: "What is church?"

Mike

materials: (show google doc #2 of pics on computer/TV, pics of different types of churches)

God chose Solomon to build a temple where He would dwell with His people. After Jesus gave his life through his death and resurrection, he opened the way to God's spirit to dwell in us. We became a dwelling place for God's Spirit, like little mobile temples. We sometimes think about the church as a building, but the truth is that the church is a group of people who love Jesus and want to live as new creation people. Some local churches meet in beautiful old ornate churches, some meet in houses and some meet in community centres (like us) or movie theaters. Some churches around the world are not allowed to gather so they have to meet in secret. What is the strangest place you have heard about God's people meeting? God's spirit is present wherever His people gather.

ACTIVITY: "Cross over challenge"

Nijel

Clear an open space for an active game. Instruct kids to stand against one wall. Choose two or three players to sit cross-legged in the middle of the floor. Explain that kids will try to cross the room without being tagged. Players who are seated will try to tag crossing players. If a player is tagged, she should sit. She is now a tagger too. Taggers must stay seated to tag players passing by.

Play several rounds. Each round will be more difficult as more tagged players are seated. End play when all players are tagged. If time allows, reset the game and play again.

Why was crossing the room so difficult? What stopped you? What would have made crossing easier?

In our Bible story today, we heard about the priests in the temple. Because God is holy, only the priests could approach God—and only if they followed specific instructions. Ordinary people had no direct access to the holy presence of God. But Jesus changed all that. By His death on the cross, Jesus took away our sin. We can approach God intimately and individually when we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

SNACK/FREE PLAY/DISMISS