

LESSON 2

SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE OF GOD

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Temple

Until the time of Solomon, the Israelites worshipped God in a movable tabernacle. David had wanted to build the temple but God reserved the task for his son Solomon. The temple was a spectacular building that took seven years to complete. It was built on Mount Moriah. The general plan was the same as the tabernacle, except that it was twice as large. One cubit is about 1.5 feet, so the dimensions of the temple were 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It was roughly one-third the length of a football field and almost five stories high. The walls were made of stone, the roof of cedar, and the floor of cypress. Solomon was able to obtain the wood from Lebanon and skilled workers from Phoenicia due to his alliance with the king of Tyre. Solomon also overlaid the interior with gold. A talent was a weight used for measuring precious metals. The value of the gold, silver, and bronze used has been estimated to be worth between two to five million dollars today (1 Chr 22:14).

The temple was made up of three main areas: the Most Holy Place, also known as the Holy of Holies (where the ark of the covenant was kept), the Holy Place (where the golden tables for the showbread, gold lampstands, and altar of incense were located), and the outer courtyard. This temple was a permanent location where the Israelites could worship. They did not have to use the portable tabernacle anymore.

To better understand the temple's layout, please refer to 1 Kings, chapter 6 and 2 Chronicles, chapter 3.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!" (1 Kgs 8:27). This was Solomon's proclamation during his dedication speech—God dwells everywhere in the universe. It is true that God lives everywhere. He lives in the hearts of people and your students know that He dwells within them when they have the Holy Spirit. However, this does not negate the importance of the temple. Solomon built it for a reason. It was a place that guaranteed the presence of God. It was a permanent place of worship for the Israelites.

Although this temple was grand and marvelous, help your students understand that it isn't the size or the elegance that makes a church important. It is a place where people come together to worship God. Your students know the significance of Sabbath. People all over the world gather to worship and praise God in their own church on Sabbath. It is a time set aside for everyone to talk to God and thank Him for His blessings. Remind your students why they gather in God's house every week.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Kings 5-8; 9:1-9;
2 Chronicles 2-7

BIBLE TRUTH

God blesses all those who love and take care of His church.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn ways to keep the temple of God, our body and mind, holy.
2. To know that we can serve God by taking care of His church.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will dwell in the house
of the Lord forever."

(Psalm 23:6b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for guiding us safely through another week. Today, we are going to learn about how Solomon built a temple for You. We hope that we can learn from his example and worship You even more faithfully. Help us be wise children who will always follow in Your ways so that we may be blessed. May all the glory be Yours. Hallelujah! Amen.

At this age, your students may not offer regularly. Although the church today is not as fancy as the one Solomon built, it still requires offerings from the believers in order to maintain it. When Solomon built the temple, everyone offered their money and time to help out.

Remind your students that it is important that they remember to offer their time and money to God as well. Just as God freely gives them all that they need, they should thank God and offer what they can.

VOCABULARY

dedicate: to set apart in honor of something or someone

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Solomon became the king of Israel. He was chosen by God and David was going to crown him. But one of Solomon's brothers thought that he should become king instead. What was his name? (Adonijah.) However, he secretly invited people to a feast and proclaimed himself to be the king. But when David found out, he quickly told Zadok the priest to anoint Solomon. When Adonijah heard about this, he became terrified. He ran to the altar and clutched its horns. He wanted Solomon to swear that he would not kill him. King Solomon was a gentle person, and he forgave his brother.

We also learned that Solomon asked God for wisdom. When God saw that he was humble, He gave him not only wisdom but also riches and honor. Solomon went on to become a good king and his wisdom spread to many places in the country. What did we learn from Solomon? (We learned to pray for spiritual wisdom to guide us in our lives.)

BIBLE STORY

Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple

After Solomon became the king of Israel, he needed to do the important thing his father David had asked him to do.

David had said to his son, "Solomon, when you become king, you must build a temple for God. It's not just any building. It will be a place where God lives!" King David had wanted to build the temple himself, but God did not want him to because of all the wars that David had fought. Instead, God wanted his temple to be built during a time of peace by a king who did not have so many nations' blood on his hands. That is why Solomon was chosen. David had already prepared the plans and gathered a lot of the materials needed to build this temple. Now all King Solomon had to do was start the process!

When Solomon began to collect all the materials, he realized that he required more wood. So he asked Hiram, the king of Tyre, for help. In this king's land, there were many trees of good quality. In fact, the cedars of Lebanon, which grew in Tyre, were famous back then for their strength, straightness, and good smell. Wood from those trees would make good lumber for building God's house. So, King Solomon and the king of Tyre made an agreement. The king of Tyre would supply the wood and the people to help Solomon cut down the trees and Solomon would send food to Tyre in return. This plan worked out very well.

The Temple Is Built

So the people began to work. They cut the trees into logs and boards. Some men cut stones for the walls of the temple. Others helped move the wood and stones to Mount Moriah, where the temple was being built. When the materials were ready, the people began to build the temple. It was amazing because they built it without using hammers or saws. They did not want to make a lot of noise at the temple, so they did all the cutting somewhere else before moving the materials to the temple site. There were 70,000 workers who carried the stones, 80,000 stonecutters in the hills, and 3,300 overseers who directed the workmen. Can you imagine seeing all these people work on this temple?

The temple took a very long time to build because it was large and contained many beautiful and precious items. Let's look at the way that the temple was constructed. [As you describe the parts of the temple, draw a diagram and have each student copy it onto a sheet of paper. You can also make handouts with the basic structure of the temple and have the students fill in the details.] The temple was divided into three main sections: the portico, the main hall, and the inner sanctuary. The inner sanctuary was also called the Most Holy Place; this was where the ark of the covenant was placed. The main hall was called the Holy Place. This was where the tables for the bread and the lampstands were placed. In front of

the temple, there stood two pillars: Jachin ("He establishes") on the right and Boaz ("in Him is strength") on the left. These pillars were decorated with interwoven chains hung with two hundred pomegranates.

Outside the portico, there was a bronze altar where offerings were burned. There was also a basin by the priests for their ceremonial washings called the Sea. This cast metal basin was circular, and it sat on twelve bulls, three facing each of the four directions. The temple was also furnished by many wonderful objects. There were ten basins for washing, ten golden lampstands, ten tables, and a hundred golden sprinkling bowls. These bronze items were made by Hiram, a renowned craftsman who was highly skilled in bronzeworks.

It took seven years to complete the temple and its many precious items. By the end, it was a beautiful building covered with gold on the inside.

Once the temple had been completed, King Solomon gathered together all the elders, the heads of the tribes, and the chiefs of the Israelite families to him in Jerusalem. They all came together to bring the ark of the covenant to the newly constructed temple. The priests and the Levites carried the ark from a tent in Jerusalem to the Most Holy Place, where it rested between the outstretched wings of two cherubim. When the ark was brought to its resting place, a cloud filled the temple of the Lord. This was God's glory coming down to rest on His temple.

The Dedication

The Israelites gathered together to worship God at the temple. They dressed in their best clothes, and they sang songs to praise Him. It was a joyous occasion. After the cloud had filled the temple, King Solomon spoke to the

Israelites gathered there and praised God for fulfilling His promise of having Solomon build the temple.

Then, King Solomon knelt down in front of the altar, before all the people gathered there, and spread his hands toward heaven. Then, praying, he said, "O Lord, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below. This temple is built for You. Please help us walk in Your ways and keep Your commands. Listen to our prayers and guide us. Praise the Lord!" God showed His acceptance of Solomon's prayer by sending fire down from heaven to burn the offerings. That day, the glory of God also filled the Most Holy Place, so that no one could enter into it. God truly came down and dwelt with His people in the temple that day.

Afterward, Solomon dedicated the temple to God by offering 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats. The people had a feast that lasted for fourteen days! Everyone celebrated and praised God for all the good things He had done for them.

God Appears to Solomon

After the celebration, the people went home very joyous and glad. They knew that God would always guide them. Later, after Solomon had completed everything he wanted for the temple and his house, God appeared to Solomon.

God said, "I have heard your prayer and dedication, Solomon. My eyes and My heart will always be at the temple. As for you, you must walk in My ways and obey My commands. Then I will establish your throne forever!"

When Solomon heard God's words, he knew that God had accepted his prayer for the people. He was glad that God was with him to help him be a good king.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False

1. The temple was made out of stone and _____ (wood).
2. The inside of the temple was completely covered in _____ (gold).
3. It took _____ (seven) years to complete the temple.
4. Solomon had to plan out how to build the temple by himself. False; his father David had already prepared the plans.
5. Solomon did not give glory to God after the temple was completed. False; He prayed to God and praised Him.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Keep the temple of God, our body and mind, holy.

Today, the temple of God is the church, just like the temple in Solomon's time. The church is holy a place where God dwells and where we go there to worship and draw close to God. It is spiritually beautiful in the eyes of God when the members in the church are doing the will of God and following His commandments.

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 3:16. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Here the Bible tells us that we are the temple of the living God. How can our bodies also be the temple of God? In the Bible, it says that God lives in the temple. Likewise, when we are baptized, the Spirit of God lives inside of us. Thus, we are each His holy temple.

Just like the church, our body—the temple of God—is a place to be kept holy. The Bible further teaches us to "glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor 6:20). Our bodies are temples that belong to God, so we need to take care of them. Do you watch bad television programs or play too many video games? Do you say bad words because your friends are saying them? Are you keeping your body holy?

In order for us to keep our temple holy, we must maintain a very close relationship with God, who is perfect and holy. The Bible says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). God is our vine, and we are His branches. For us to bear the fruit of holiness, we need to be connected to our vine, that is, God. By going to church every Saturday, praying, and reading the Bible, we can connect with God and keep our temple holy.

Now, let's look into a few scenarios and discuss how we can take good care of our body, the temple of God.

Pamela's dad recently upgraded their cable service at home and twenty new channels have been added, including a channel that Pamela has always wanted to have. Now Pamela watches TV every night after dinner until she goes to bed. Normally, Pamela went to bed around 9 pm, but lately, she's been staying up until 10 pm, and sometimes even until 10:30 pm. Since Pamela hasn't been getting enough sleep, she feels tired during the day and loses focus in school. Moreover, she often feels too tired to pray before going to bed.

1. **Is Pamela taking care of her temple?** No. She feels tired every day and loses focus in school.
2. **What is hindering Pamela from taking care of her body?** The TV. Pamela is exhausted because she's been staying up late to watch TV.
3. **How does the TV affect Pamela's relationship with God?** Pamela often forgets to pray before going to bed because she's too tired from watching TV.

Stephen has been studying very hard for his final exams since this is his last chance to improve his grades this year. Because of this, he gets frustrated easily. For example, he became angry with his mom one time for asking him to help his little sister with her homework. He said to his mom, "Can't you see that I'm studying very hard for my exams and don't have time for anything else? I can't help her!" There was another time his friends invited him to play basketball with them. He thought to himself, "It's so selfish for them to play basketball right now when they should already know that I can't play because of final exams. They just want to make me feel jealous!" What's worse is that Stephen has been using foul language at home and at school since he's constantly frustrated.

1. **Is Stephen taking care of his temple?** No. He's easily frustrated. A holy temple where God's Spirit dwells should be peaceful and calm. Moreover, using foul language does not glorify God's holy name.
2. **What is hindering Stephen from taking care of his body?** His emotions. When we are under pressure, it can bring us many negative emotions, such as anger, frustration, and bitterness. Stephen is letting these emotions affect his attitudes towards his family and friends, and his attitudes do not please God.
3. **How do Stephen's emotions affect his relationship with God?** Instead of praying to God for wisdom, Stephen is letting stress rule his heart. When the matters of this world take control, Stephen shuts the door on God's Spirit, preventing Him from entering his heart and giving him peace.

Students, God loves us and wants us to take good care of ourselves. He wants us to keep our temple holy so that His Spirit can dwell in us. Being filled with God's Spirit allows us to be good Christians and lead other people to Christ. Similarly, when people come to our church and see that this is a holy place, they'll know that our church is the house of God.

From the above examples, we can see that the temple of God can very easily be defiled. This is because there are many temptations in this world, from entertainment to material possessions, which make us forget about keeping our temple holy. In Pamela's example, her temptation was the TV. Where can you find a TV? In almost every household! This is why it is so important for us to be connected to the vine—God. If we are far from God, we can easily be tempted to defile our temple. Let me share an example with you.

Nicole and her brother are at the store. Nicole wants to get a pencil for her friend, Amy. When Nicole finds the pencil, her brother says to her, "Don't you already have that pencil?" Nicole replies, "Yes, and my friend Amy really likes it too, so she asked me to buy one for her. She will pay me back!" Nicole's brother thinks for a while, then answers, "I see. You know what? You can make some money!" Nicole doesn't understand completely. Her brother continues, "Amy doesn't know where you're getting the pencil from, nor does she know how much you got this pencil for! You see... This pencil is \$5, but you can tell her that it is \$10! You can make \$5!" Nicole doesn't know what to do. She's been saving up for a school backpack that she really likes, and this \$5 would really help her get the backpack sooner. But, Nicole also knows that lying is wrong.

1. **If you were Nicole, what would you do?** Answers may vary.
2. **What should Nicole do in order to keep her temple holy?** Even though Nicole really wants her backpack sooner, she shouldn't lie to Amy. In order to keep her temple holy, she must do what God wants her to do in this circumstance—to be honest with Amy and tell her that the pencil only costs \$5.

Students, there are many temptations in this world. What is hindering you from keeping your temple holy? Is it the TV, video games, or friends? It is very important for us to recognize these obstacles in our lives and remove them. Let's determine to keep our temple holy and invite God's Spirit to dwell in us.

2. We can serve God by taking care of His church.

Solomon served God by building the temple, a place for God's people to worship. Today, we can also serve God in many different ways. What are some ways that we can serve God today? [Let students share.] Here are some examples:

1. Clean up the RE classroom after each class.
2. If you see a piece of trash on the floor at church, pick it up and throw it away.
3. Keep the church clean.
4. If you see visitors or truth-seekers at church, be friendly and help them if needed.
5. Be kind to brothers and sisters at church.

Can you think of any other examples? [Let students share.]

The temple of God in Solomon's time was covered with gold. What does that mean for us today? To have a temple covered in gold is to have a beautiful church—a church where God's love shines. In other words, for us to make God's temple a beautiful place today, we must love one another in the church. I'll share a few examples with you.

1. Unlike many other church members, Robert is retired and has quite some free time during the week. Robert loves the church very much and wants to use his free time to serve God. Therefore, he goes to church every week, when nobody is there, to clean in his free time. He vacuums the chapel, straightens up all the RE classrooms, sweeps the floor, wipes all the surfaces in the kitchen, etc. When it comes to the Sabbath, the church is always clean and tidy when church members, visitors, and truth-seekers come. Even though Robert puts a lot of hard work into cleaning the church, he never seeks praise from other people. He feels very joyful to serve the Lord by taking care of His church.

2. Jeff loves the church very much. Every time he hears that another member is going through a difficult time, or he knows that someone in the church needs help and support, he will reach out to them. One time, he knew that Vicky's dad was in the hospital. Not only did he pray for Vicky's dad every day, he also visited him in the hospital every week with Vicky and gave his family many encouragements. There was another time when Ally didn't go church for a couple of weeks. So, Jeff called Ally and found out that she was having some doubts. Jeff never gave up on praying for Ally, and he visited her a few times to answer many questions she had regarding her doubts. Ally finally came back to church and her faith much stronger than before. Even though Jeff doesn't have many skills, such as playing the piano, translating, or cooking, he has a very loving and caring heart. Jeff uses this talent to serve God by taking care of His church to keep all the brothers and sisters together in the love of God.

Students, God has given each of us different talents, and He wants us to use our talents to serve Him in the church. Do you know what your talents are? Have you been using them to serve? If not, let us learn from the examples of Robert and Jeff. They love God and serve Him by taking care of His church. We, too, can serve God the same way if we truly love our heavenly Father!

Now, let's work on this activity to help us learn about some ways we can serve God. [Follow with Activity 1.]

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Tyre
2. Hiram
3. True
4. True
5. To make a place where all the people could come to worship God and glorify Him.
6. The church.
7. We clean the church, help other believers, pray, listen to God's words through sermons, etc.
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.

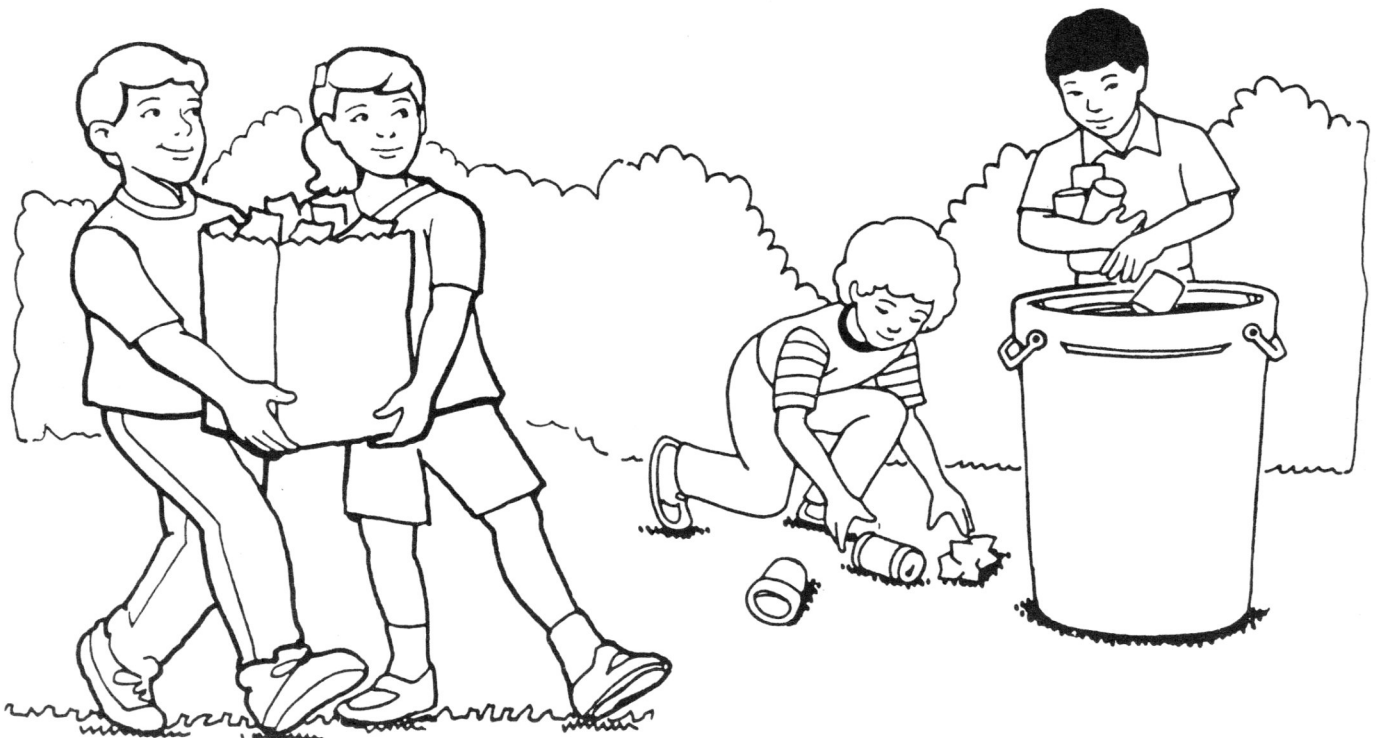
ACTIVITIES

1

Everyone Keeps the Church Clean**Objective:** To let the students know of ways they can offer their services to God.**Instructions:** Finish each of the sentences. Find the missing word by unscrambling the letters. Read about the ways you can help take care of God's house.

1. I'll pick up the garbage that is in the _____ (moolssacr).
2. I'll help the teacher dust off the _____ (kobos).
3. I'll wipe the _____ (swinwod).
4. I'll push my _____ (irach) under the table every time class is over.
5. It's so nice to keep the church and classroom _____ (elcan).
6. I will be _____ (dkni) to the other students in class.

At the end of the activity, have the students pick something that they will do to serve God every week from this week on. It doesn't have to be something from this list.



2

Go to Church / Optional

Objective: To remind the students to always worship God on Sabbath by attending church services.

Materials

- White paper
- Crayons/markers
- Construction paper
- Copies of the activity sheet
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions

[Teachers please refer to the included sample.]

1. Hand out one pattern sheet to each student.
2. Cut out Pattern B and glue it onto a piece of construction paper. Color in the cross with a yellow crayon or marker.
3. Trace your handprints on another piece of colored construction paper. Cut them out and glue them onto the center of Pattern B.
4. Cut out Pattern A. Color it in with a yellow crayon or marker. Glue it over the bottom half of the handprints.
5. Either draw in your own faces on the tips of each finger or reproduce the faces from the pattern and glue them on. Be sure to color them in.
6. Display your work. Remember to come to church to worship God.

3

Thank You, God! / Optional

Objective: To create a hanging mobile that depicts Elijah being fed by ravens, which will remind the students to always trust in God.

Help your students express thanks to God at church. Ask one student to say one thing that they are thankful for. Encourage the student to speak in a complete sentence, "Thank You, God, for _____." Then, as a whole class, say, "Thank You, God!" It may help if everyone sits in a circle. After everyone has had a turn, let them all know that they have said a thanksgiving prayer together. God likes it when people pray together and give thanks to Him.

Here is an example:

Student 1: Thank You, God, for my friends.

Together: Thank You, God!

Student 2: Thank You, God, for the church.

Together: Thank You, God!

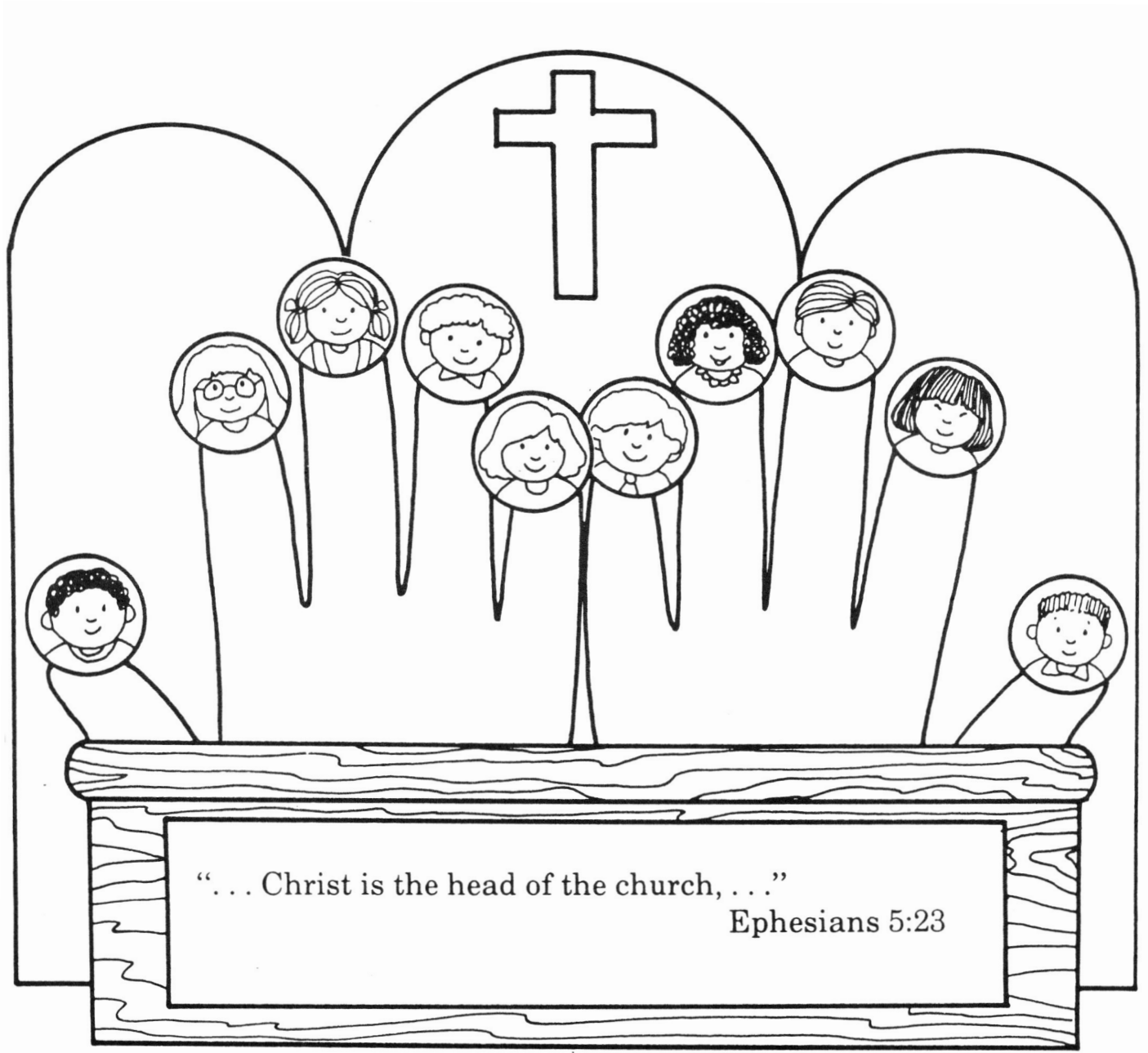
Student 3: Thank You, God, for my family.

Together: Thank You, God!

Student 4: Thank You, God, for the Bible.

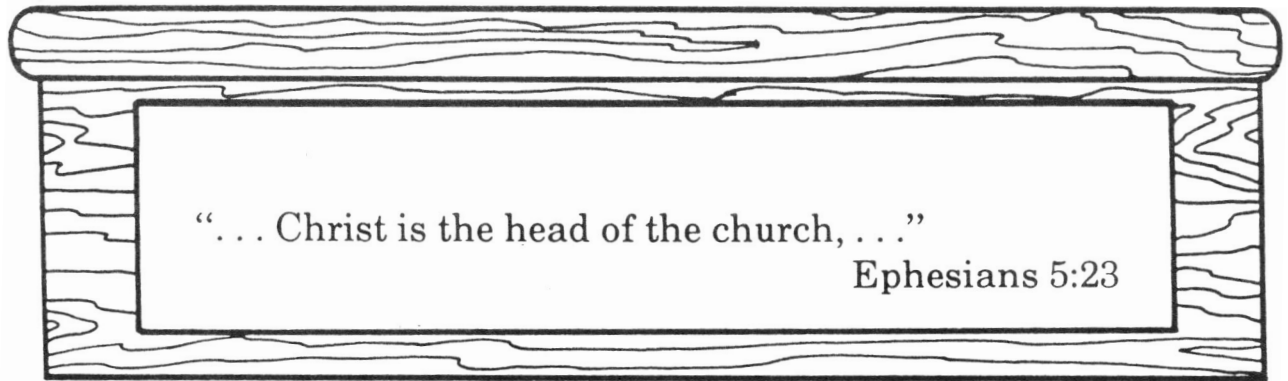
Together: Thank You, God! Amen.

Activity 2 Sample

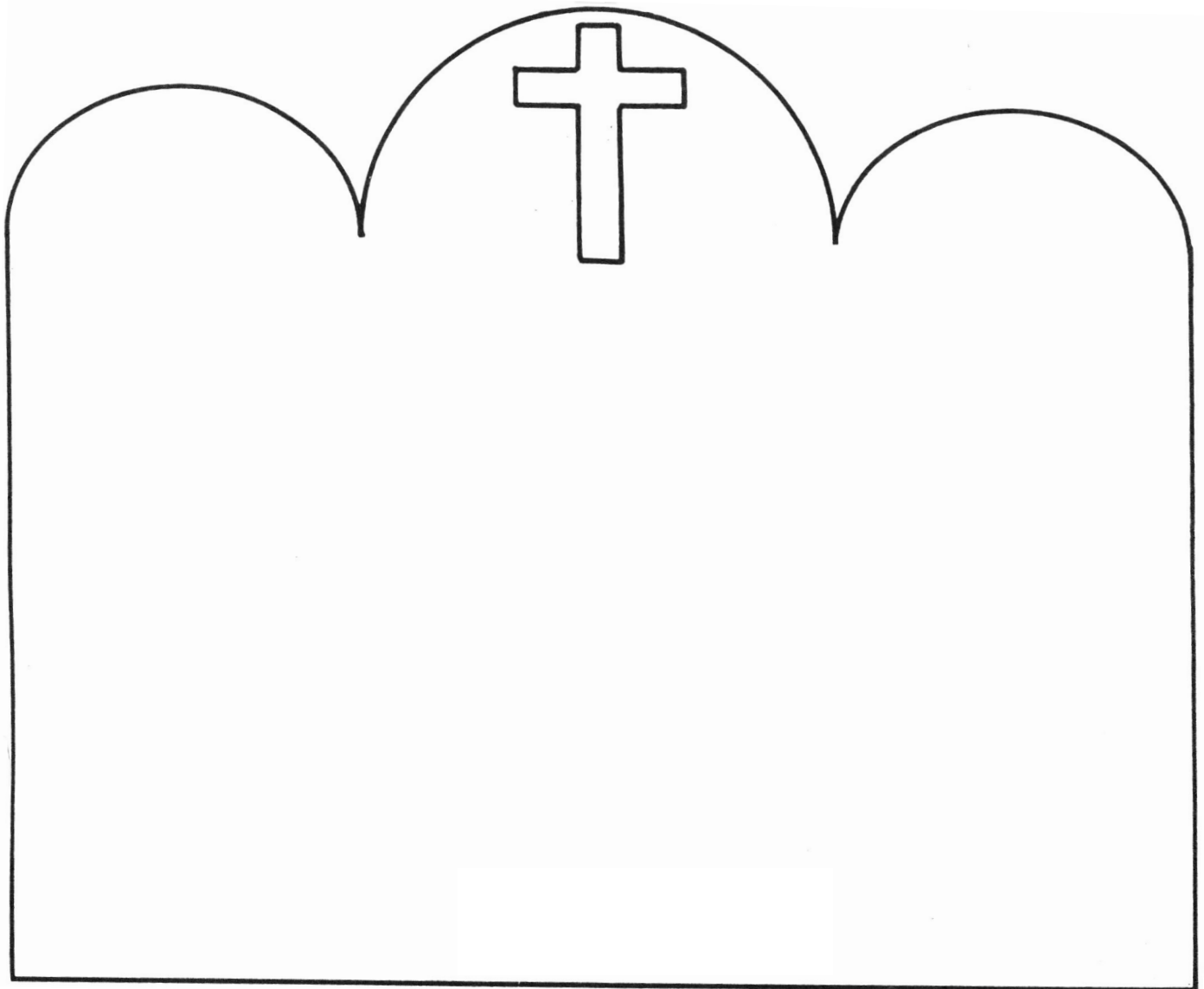


“... Christ is the head of the church, ...”
Ephesians 5:23

Pattern A



Pattern B



E1 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 2—Solomon Builds the Temple of God

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God blesses all those who love and take care of His church.

Lesson Objective: To worship in church and offer willingly.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 23:6b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

1. Solomon asked the king of _____ for wood to build the temple.
2. Solomon hired a skilled bronzeworker named _____ to help make the temple furnishings.

True or False

3. There were two pillars at the front of the temple. _____
4. God showed that He was pleased with the temple by filling the Most Holy Place with His presence and sending down fire from heaven to consume the offerings. _____

Short Answer

5. Why did Solomon build the temple?

6. What is the temple today?

7. What are some things we do in church to show that we worship God?

8. The memory verse says, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." What does that mean to you?

9. The Israelites offered their time and money to help build the temple. In what ways can you offer to God?
