

LESSON 11

KING SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S HOUSE

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that God's wisdom and power enable us to do great things for Him.
2. To seek God with all our hearts when accomplishing God's work and to give thanks to Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Ephesians 5:19-20)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, God, for allowing us to serve You and to serve one another in the church.
2. May Your Spirit empower us to work for You in one accord, with wisdom and knowledge from above.
3. May You fill our hearts with thanksgiving and joy as we carry out Your plan.
4. May You also guide today's lesson and help us apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple
2. Solomon Builds the Temple
3. The Ark Brought into the Temple
4. Solomon Dedicates the Temple
5. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The True Church
6. Life Application—Serve God with all our hearts; Wisdom and power come from God
7. Activity—How Can We Serve God?



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Temple of Solomon

King David, Solomon's father, had in fact wanted to build a temple for God before Solomon was born. He felt bad that the ark of God was inside a tent while he lived in a luxurious palace. However, Nathan told him that God's will was rather for Solomon to build the temple of God because David had shed too much blood during his lifetime (1 Chr 22:7-10; 2 Sam 7:1-17). As instructed by God, David later gave the task to build the temple of God to Solomon (1 Chr 22). He said to Solomon, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD" (1 Chr 22:19) After David had rested with his fathers, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign, the temple finally started being built. It took seven years for the building to be completed, and Solomon dedicated the temple to God as His dwelling place. Today, our church is the temple of God. God Himself has consecrated it, and His eyes and His heart will be there perpetually (1 Kgs 9:3) for as long as we worship Him in His house.

Ark of the Covenant

The ark of the covenant was the visual representation of God's presence. For this reason, it traveled ahead of the Israelite army on the way to the promised land. Scholars believe that when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, the ark was probably taken and destroyed. Today, the ark is not necessary, because we have the church and the Holy Spirit. God's presence is with us. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in our midst.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Students at this age are probably familiar with the idea of “serving God.” They may have been told to do various things to serve, such as helping to keep the church clean. However, rather than having a desire to serve, most of your students probably do these things because they have been told to do them. Encourage your students to think about what they can do for God in their everyday lives. Remind them that we are God’s servants and that it is our responsibility to work for Him. God looks into our hearts and rewards those who serve Him with a willing and joyful heart. It doesn’t matter if it is a big task or small task, in public or in secret—it is our heart that counts. Guide your students to do more than what they have been asked; remind them always to seek opportunities to serve the Lord and to be thankful for those opportunities.



Opener

5 Minutes

Students, let me ask you a question. How much time do you spend thinking about God every day? [Pause for students to think, and let them share their answers.] And how much time do you think about what you can do for God? [Pause.] You can keep your answer to yourself. Today, we will learn about King Solomon, who built a very beautiful temple for God. Even though he was a very, very busy king, he thought about God every day. He used his God-given wisdom to accomplish every great thing he did for God and His chosen people. He also wanted to make a very special place for God to dwell in. When everything was ready for the work of the temple to begin, Solomon was so excited! He couldn’t wait to finish building the temple because he loved God so much. Are you ready to hear his story?



Vocabulary

treaty: a formal agreement between two parties

supervise: to oversee or watch over to make sure that a task is being done correctly



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Last week, we learned that Solomon asked God for something that he felt he really needed as a king. Do you remember what it was? [Let students answer.] Yes, he asked for wisdom to judge His people! God was very pleased with Solomon’s request, and He gladly granted it. Solomon was a very wise king; he conquered many other nations, and his own kingdom was very prosperous during his reign. He also wrote many books, and some are even in the Bible! Not only did Solomon’s wisdom help him gain fame from surrounding nations, it also attracted leaders from other places to come visit him because they all wanted to hear his wisdom.

Despite his very busy schedule, Solomon didn’t forget about what his father King David had instructed him to do. Let’s turn to a passage in the Bible and see what he told Solomon! [Read 1 Chronicles 28:9-21 with your students.] What did David instruct Solomon to do? [Let students answer.] To build a house for the Lord! David felt

bad that, while he lived in a beautiful palace, God dwelled “inside tent curtains.” What does it mean that God dwelled “inside tent curtains”? Well, more than four hundred years before David’s time, when the Israelites first entered the wilderness, God had already instructed the Israelites to build a place for Him to dwell in, called the “tabernacle.” One of the things inside the tabernacle was the ark of the covenant. To the Israelites, having the ark was like having God with them. They would bring it with them wherever they traveled. As you can imagine, the ark of the covenant never stayed in a fixed place. The ark of the covenant traveled with the Israelites until one day it came to rest in the temple of God. Now, we will learn about how the temple of God came to be built!

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet, and guide your students to complete it. The answers are underlined in this section.

I. Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple

One day, Solomon sent a message to Hiram, the king of Tyre, saying, "My father David had wanted to build a temple for the Lord—a place for Him to dwell in and for people to come worship His name. But because of all the wars that happened during my father's reign, he couldn't build the temple. Now, the Lord my God has given me rest from our enemies. I propose to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, just as God had spoken to my father David, and my father to me. I want to sign a contract with you: I know that your servants are very good at cutting trees. If they can help me cut down cedars for me from Lebanon, I will give you whatever you ask for as wages." When Hiram heard the message, he was very happy! He sent a message back to Solomon and said, "I am willing to help you! My servants will cut down trees from Lebanon and bring them to you by sea. When your servants take them away, you will give my people food in exchange." With the wisdom of God, Solomon knew that this was a good plan, so he signed a treaty with Hiram.

II. Solomon Builds the Temple

Now that he had his basic building materials, Solomon gathered for himself a large number of people from Israel to begin the building of the temple. Let's read 1 Kings 5:13-16 to see how many people he needed! He needed 30,000 people alone to cut the timber in Lebanon, and he sent 10,000 a month in shifts. He had 70,000 people to carry burdens, 80,000 to quarry stone in the mountains, and 3,300 to supervise all the workers. Besides, Solomon commanded the builders to lay the foundation of the temple.

Even though Solomon was the mastermind of this building project, he knew that ultimately it was God's wisdom that inspired him to do the work. Let's read 1 Chronicles 3:4-12. The temple was very grand; it was overlaid with pure gold on the inside. There were two main rooms, called the "Holy Place" and the "Most Holy Place". They decorated the Holy Place with precious stones and carved beautiful images of palm trees and chainworks on the walls. As for the Most Holy Place, where only the high priests could enter, they placed two huge cherubim in it, carved and overlaid with fine gold. Their wings stretched from one end of the room to the other, with one of their wings touching each side of the walls and the other touching the other cherub's wing. As you can imagine, the temple was huge construction project. It took tens of thousands of workers seven years in total to complete.

III. The Ark Brought into the Temple

But the temple was not ready yet. Ever since the Israelites' time in the wilderness, they had been carrying the ark of

the covenant everywhere they went. The ark was like God's presence with them; inside were the two tablets of the covenant that Moses put there at Horeb. Before the temple was built, the ark of the covenant was kept inside a special tent called the tabernacle. But now, Solomon had prepared a dwelling place for God—a holy temple. Let's read 1 Kings 8:4-9. So Solomon commanded the priests to bring the ark of the covenant to the temple, into the "Most Holy Place". They placed the ark right under the two angels so that their wings overshadowed the ark. They also brought all the furniture that was in the tabernacle and placed them inside the temple. As they brought the ark up, Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were together before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen. They sacrificed so many of them that they could not be counted! When the priests came out from the temple, a cloud, the glory of the LORD, filled the temple. Upon seeing the glory of God coming down to the temple, all the children of Israel bowed down their faces and lifted up their voices, praising God, "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!" Then Solomon said, "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud. I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell in forever."

Indeed, the temple is where God will dwell forever. Students, where is our temple today? [Let students answer.] The temple in Solomon's time is equivalent to our church today. It is a place for us to come together and worship God, to experience God's glory and praise His name. In fact, we're surrounded by God's presence right now!

IV. Solomon Dedicates the Temple

Next, Solomon gave a speech in front of all the assembly of Israel before the altar of the Lord. When a new church is built, do you know what we always do before we start holding services there? [Let students answer.] We will have a church dedication. As the name indicates, a church dedication is an event to dedicate a church to God—to say to Him: this is the place where we will come and worship You, seek Your wisdom, pray to You, share Your stories, talk about Your love and mercy...this is a place only for You, O Lord! So, Solomon spoke in front of all the people and dedicated the temple to God with a prayer. Let's hear what he said! [Invite a student to read 1 Kings 8:27-30 aloud.]

Jesus said in Matthew 21:13, "My house shall be called a house of prayer," that is, His church is where we will call on His holy name! When we do so, our prayers immediately reach God's ears. He is always here, ready to listen to our cries and share our joy. The Israelites had long been aware of the importance of having a place for worship—they built a tabernacle, a special tent, for

worship at the command of God more than four hundred years ago in the wilderness. And now, Solomon built a temple for God to replace the tabernacle!

After Solomon prayed, he stood up and spoke to the assembly of Israel with a loud voice. Solomon gave thanks to God for the peace that He had given Israel from their enemies. He also encouraged the congregation to keep the commandments of God, to be loyal to Him, and to incline their hearts to Him. With wisdom from above, Solomon knew that if His people continued to walk in the ways of God with obedience, God would not leave nor forsake them, just as He promised. Indeed, Solomon was filled with God's wisdom. Not only did his words please God, they also led the people of Israel in truth.

Now that the work of the temple was completed, Solomon offered sacrifices to God together with all the people of Israel. They also held a feast together that lasted for seven days. When the people left, they were filled with joy. They were reminded of all the wonderful things that God had done to them and their fathers since they came out of Egypt. The feast continued for another seven days.

After all the people had left, God once again appeared to Solomon and spoke to him. He said, "I have heard your prayer, Solomon. I have accepted your dedication and there, at this temple you have built for Me, I will put My name there forever. My eyes and My heart will be there also." The Lord reassured Solomon that his prayer had been heard. God would indeed dwell in this temple and show His presence to everyone who came to Him. God continued, "If you continue to walk in my ways, I will establish the throne of your kingdom. However, if you turn away from Me, breaking My commandments and worshipping idols, I will cast this temple out of My sight and uproot the people from the land which I have given them."

Solomon understood that God's presence was not limited to the temple he had built for Him. If the temple were not used for true worship, it would be worth nothing at all. Today, it is also true that God dwells in our church, which we have dedicated to Him. But if we are not here for the right reasons, we will not experience God's presence. Therefore, let us also dedicate our hearts to God—a heart that clings to Him with true obedience.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The True Church

We believe that True Jesus Church is the only church that is saved, of which Christ is the head (Col 1:18). The church is His bod, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Eph 1:22-23). It is a dwelling place for the Spirit of God (Eph 2:22). The Holy Spirit abides with the church to testify that this church preaches the truth and that it is indeed the true church filled with the glory of God, just as Solomon's temple was (Eph 1:13-14).



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Where was the ark before Solomon placed it in the temple?** The ark of the covenant resided in the tabernacle that David had built.
- 2. Who did Solomon sign a treaty with?** Hiram, the king of Tyre.
- 3. How many people were assigned to supervise the workers of the temple?** 3,300.
- 4. How many years did it take Solomon to build the temple?** 7 Years.
- 5. What did Solomon ask the priests to put in the Most Holy Place?** He asked the priests to put the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place.
- 6. What was Solomon doing when he prayed in front of the temple?** He was dedicating the temple to God.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Serve God with all our hearts

Today, we learned about how King Solomon did a great thing for the Lord—he built a very beautiful temple for Him! Now you may wonder, how does can we apply this to our daily lives? You may tell yourself, “We’re not kings like Solomon, or even people God appointed to hold important positions... We’re just little children! The most we can do for God is to help out around church doing little things, such as taking out the trash or sweeping the floor.” If this is what you think, you’re totally wrong. In God’s eyes, “great things” don’t just mean difficult tasks, such as building the temple of God. Anything we do for God with a sincere heart is a “great thing”; yes, even sweeping the floor is a great thing! God doesn’t measure our work according to what we did, but according to our hearts. He examines our hearts and sees if we are serving Him with a willing and joyful heart. Let’s look at a few examples!

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet and go over each scenario with the students. Then, ask students to answer the discussion questions and share their thoughts.]

1. Shirley saw a piece of trash on the floor of the chapel. Shirley looked around and saw that her RE teacher was about to pass by, so she went to pick up the piece of trash, making sure that her RE teacher was there to see what she did.

Did Shirley do a “great thing” for God? No, because rather than picking up the piece of trash to keep the house of God clean, Shirley was picking up the trash to show her RE teacher that she was doing something “good.” She didn’t have the right heart to serve.

2. After RE class, Patrick stayed in the classroom to clean up. He put everything away, wiped the whiteboard, and swept the floor. He thought to himself, “If my RE teacher didn’t tell me to do this, I’d be playing outside right now.”

Did Patrick do a “great thing” for God? No, because Patrick felt “forced” to clean up the classroom. He’d rather be playing outside than cleaning the classroom. His heart wasn’t serving God.

3. Ivy came to church half an hour before afternoon service today. When she went into the RE classroom, no one was there. She saw a few empty plates sitting on the dirty tables and some crumbs underneath. Ivy thought to herself, “Someone must have forgotten to clean up after they had lunch today! Let me clean everything up before it is time for class so that no one gets distracted from learning.” So, Ivy cleaned the classroom before everyone started to arrive.

Did Ivy do a “great thing” for God? Yes, she did! Ivy knew that God didn’t want anybody to be distracted during RE class, so she willingly cleaned the classroom without being asked.

In God’s eyes, anyone with an eager and willing heart to serve Him is a great worker of His. Even though Solomon was so busy taking care of his kingdom, he remembered to build a house for God. He eagerly proposed to Hiram his plan to build God’s temple and gathered many people to help him so that God could have a dwelling place as soon as possible. His heart was truly after the Lord. In the end, God was very pleased with what Solomon did for Him. Indeed, he had done a great thing for the Lord! Today, as long as we serve God with the same attitude and with all our hearts, God will also be very happy with what we do for Him. In fact, He’ll be just as pleased as He was with Solomon! The Bible says, “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings” (Jer 17:10). God searches our hearts and reward those who work for Him with a genuine and willing heart. Students, are you ready to serve the Lord with all your heart?

2. Wisdom and power come from God

Building the temple of God was an extremely challenging task. You may wonder, did Solomon ever doubt if he would be able to complete the temple? Although the Bible didn't mention this, we know that Solomon was a humble man who sought God's wisdom. He knew that nothing is too difficult for God! He began building the temple with total reliance on God's wisdom and power. God also provided Solomon with all the help that he needed to complete this challenging task—he couldn't have done it on his own! Today, God has given each of us different talents and gifts. However, without God's wisdom we cannot use these abilities to serve Him. For example, an eloquent person can easily give a long speech in front of thousands of people, but he cannot preach the word of God if he does not have God-given wisdom. On the contrary, even if a person is very shy and not eloquent at all, he can still touch many people's hearts with the word of God if he has received wisdom from above. Likewise, our gifts and talents are not the most important ingredients when it comes to serving the Lord, but rather a humble and willing heart that seeks after God's wisdom. It is the power of God that enables us to do great things for Him. Let me share a testimony with you!

[Read the testimony to the students and ask them to listen closely. After you have finished reading the testimony, ask the students how Anna showed her reliance on God. Continue the discussion by asking them if they have been in similar situations as Anna when they had to do holy work, but they were very nervous the first time they had to do it.]

It was Anna's first time interpreting for a church service. During hymn singing before the service began, Anna sat on the very first pew in the chapel, and she felt her body shaking. She turned around and saw the big congregation that was about to watch her translate—she became even more nervous! She knew that if she were not able to calm herself down and stop shaking, she would not be able to speak in front of the congregation. Immediately, Anna closed her eyes and prayed in her heart:

"Lord, I'm so nervous right now because I know I'm not very gifted in speaking and translating. But God, if it is Your will, please give me Your wisdom to speak Your word with confidence. Please don't let my nervousness affect this service and those who are here to seek the truth. I know that as long as Your wisdom and power abide, my lack of ability will not be a problem. Please let Your word come through my mouth for Your glory. Amen."

As soon as Anna finished praying, she realized that her nervousness was gone. Her body was no longer shaking, and she was filled with confidence! In the opening prayer before the sermon, Anna prayed the same thing. She had peace in her heart that God would give her wisdom to speak. During the service, even though Anna made little mistakes here and there, she did a good job overall. At least, she did much better than she had expected to! In the ending prayer, Anna gave thanks to God for giving her wisdom and strength to be an interpreter for the church.

From this testimony, we can see that a person's total reliance on God's wisdom and power, not on his own abilities and confidence, is what makes him a successful worker for the Lord. Students, what are the things that you want to do for God? Is it to preach? Is it to play the piano for church? Or is it to be an RE teacher? With God, everything is possible. If you start praying today for God to empower you to work for Him, He will show you His will and give you all the necessary ingredients to grow into a great worker for Him. One day, you may also be standing here, teaching the word of God!



Activity

How Can We Serve God?

10-15 Minutes

Materials

- Blank sheets of paper
- A balloon, paper ball or anything safe for your students to throw

Instructions

1. Hand out one sheet of paper to each student.
2. Ask students to fold it in half width-wise, as if they are making a card, and then open it.
3. On the left side, write, "Things I Can Do for God," and on the right side, write, "Things I Want to Do for God." An example is provided below.

THINGS I CAN DO FOR GOD	THINGS I WANT TO DO FOR GOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preach to my friends at school • Assist elderly members in the church • Care for other church members • Help clean the church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become an RE teacher • Lead hymns in the chapel • Play piano for the church • Visit church members in their homes

4. Give students a few minutes to write down their answers on the sheet of paper.
5. Ask each student to share one thing from each of the lists, and encourage them not to share something that another student has already said if possible.

Thank God, there are so many things we can do for the Lord! Even though some of these things we want to do seem so far away, it is never too early to start praying for God to give us wisdom and power to serve Him. Now, let's hear your answers again. This time, we will try to remember everyone's answer. After we have all memorized each other's answers, we will play a memory game. Our goal is to have everyone's answer memorized so that we can pray for one another. I also pray that in the near future, you will be a great team of workers for the Lord.

6. Have the students sit in a circle and give one of the students the object to throw.
7. Ask the student to throw the object to another student in the circle and say one of the two answers of that student while throwing it. The other student will need to catch the object and do the same until everyone has had a chance to catch the object, or until the students have almost memorized everyone else's answers.

Memory Game Rules

- When you have caught the object, you cannot throw it back to the person who threw you the object.
- When the object is in your hands, you have to throw it within 15 seconds.
- Each person's answers cannot be told more than three times.
- You must try to throw the object to someone who hasn't caught it yet.

End this game with a prayer in understanding giving thanks to God that He has prepared a wonderful team of workers for the church and asking God to give your students wisdom to serve Him.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. the ark of the covenant; tent/the tabernacle; Most Holy Place
2. dedicated; feast
3. C
4. A
5. They cut stone and timber, carried things, and watched over other workers.
6. The two tablets of the covenant that Moses put in there at Horeb were in the ark.
7. We should dedicate our church to God as His dwelling place because it is a place we use for worshipping Him.

KING SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S HOUSE

A. The Workers

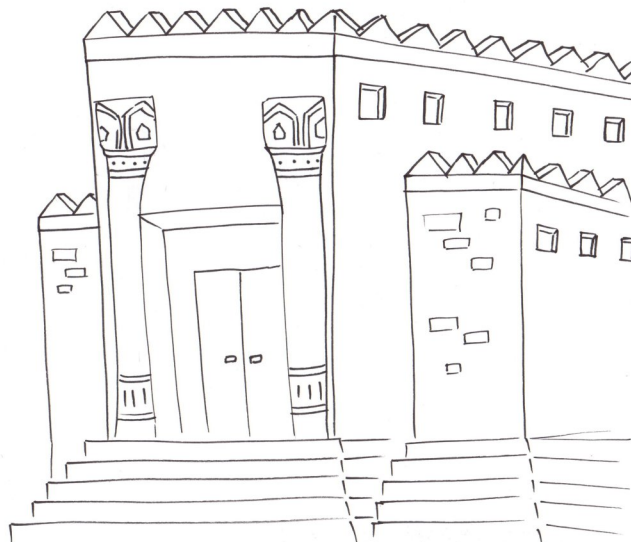
1. How many people did Solomon have in labor cutting the timber in Lebanon? _____
2. How many people did Solomon send to Lebanon each month? _____
3. How many people carried burdens? _____
4. How many people quarried stone in the mountains? _____
5. How many people supervised the work of the temple? _____

B. The Temple

1. The inside of the temple was overlaid with _____.
2. There were two rooms inside the temple. The larger room is called the Holy Place (or the Sanctuary). It was decorated with precious _____ and carvings of beautiful images, such as _____ and _____.
3. The smaller room is called the _____ . Only the _____ were allowed to enter. Inside were two _____, overlaid with _____, who had their _____ stretched from one side of the room to the other side, touching both sides of the walls.

C. God's Presence Is Manifested

1. _____ brought the _____ was brought into the temple and placed inside the _____ (or Inner Sanctuary) after the temple was built. As the priests carried the ark of the covenant into the temple, the king and all the people of Israel were before them, sacrificing _____ and _____.
2. When the _____ came out, a _____, the glory of the Lord, filled the temple.



SERVE GOD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

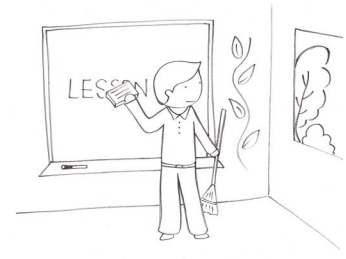
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Did Shirley do a "great thing" for God?

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Did Ivy do a "great thing" for God?

E2 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 11—King Solomon Builds God's House

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Fill in the Blank

1. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they carried the _____ everywhere they went. Before Solomon's temple was built, it was kept inside a _____. When the work of the temple was completed, Solomon asked the priests to bring it into the _____ inside the temple.
2. After the temple was built, Solomon _____ the temple with a prayer. He and the people of Israel made sacrifices to the Lord and held a _____ that lasted seven days.

Multiple Choice

3. _____: Solomon's father David did not build the temple of God because _____.
 - a. He was too old.
 - b. He didn't know how to build it.
 - c. There were many wars during his reign.
4. _____: The people rejoiced after the temple was built because _____.
 - a. They remembered the things that God had done for them.
 - b. The work was finally over.
 - c. Solomon gave them food to bring home.

Short Answer

5. What did the workers do when building the temple of God?
6. What was in the ark of the covenant at the time it was brought into the Most Holy Place in the temple of God?
7. Why should we dedicate our church to God?