

# Solomon Builds The Temple

1 Kings 6:1-38

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 KINGS 6:13

“And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A large sheet of butcher paper, red construction paper, scissors, glue and markers.

As many copies of the “I am the Temple of the Spirit” templates as the number of children in your class, various colors of construction paper, brads or paper fasteners, glue stick and markers.

Graham crackers, ready made frosting, craft sticks, paper plates, and paper towels.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Temple “Brick” Banner**

The object of this activity is to make a large banner with bricks to represent each child in your class. Have someone in your class (or you can) look up Ephesians 2:19-22. Explain to the class that we will be learning about the time when Solomon built the temple and how that each one of us is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

To help us to see how that we are each a part of “God’s building,” we will make a banner with several bricks. You will need a large piece of butcher paper. Using half-sheets (cut width-wise) of red construction paper make enough bricks for each child in the class. Have the children decorate each brick. Instruct the children to leave enough space for a name to be written on the “brick.”

Next, have the children pair up. Instruct the children to write down the name of their partner (the teacher and aide will need to assist the younger children). Instruct the children to find one good thing about their partner to write down on their brick. Then, glue the brick onto the banner. See if you have enough bricks to build a building or temple. Your class can also draw on the banner to enhance the picture. On the top of the banner, write: **“We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.”**

## **LESSON TIME!**

King David loved God passionately and desired to build a temple for God. He felt like God should dwell in a beautiful house rather than a tent (the tabernacle). But, as we studied in a previous lesson, God told David, “no” (see 2 Samuel 7). Instead, God promised David that his son would build a house for Him. In today’s lesson, David’s son, Solomon, began construction of the temple of God.

Remember, in Old Testament times, God first dwelt with His people in the tabernacle. Later, He dwelt with His people in the temple Solomon built. Where does God dwell today? In the New Testament, we are told that He dwells in very different temples. In 1 Corinthians 3:16, we read, “Do you not know you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.** His people are the temples in which He now lives—pretty amazing that God would dwell inside of us!

As we learn more about the awesome temple God had Solomon build—how beautiful it was and how it glorified God—we will see a picture of God’s craftsmanship in our lives as the temple of Holy Spirit. God dwells inside us. Let everything we do and say give glory to God.

## 1 KINGS 6:1

And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

King Solomon began his reign as a good king. He led the people of Israel in the ways of God. Because the people were being obedient, the Israelites were going through a period of peace and prosperity. Times were good. God was richly blessing them.

Solomon himself was very wealthy; and because he had a good relationship with the countries around Israel, he was able to purchase materials that would make the temple a very beautiful place to honor and worship God.

It was in the spring of the fourth year of Solomon's reign that he began to build the temple. This was 480 years after the people left their slavery in Egypt. During this time, the nation of Israel worshipped God in the tabernacle, the tent of meeting. This was a portable structure set up to house the Ark of the Covenant as well as to perform the sacrifices and ceremonies.

Now, the time had finally come to build a permanent structure that would bring glory to God among all of the nations. This desire was born in David's heart and fulfilled in Solomon's life. David had a big dream—to build a house for God to dwell in. Do you have big dreams for how you want to serve God? As we endeavor to serve the Lord with our whole hearts, God can do big things through our lives. **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

## 1 KINGS 6:2-6

Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits.

The vestibule in front of the sanctuary of the house was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the width of the vestibule extended ten cubits from the front of the house.

And he made for the house windows with beveled frames.

Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around, against the walls of the temple, all around the sanctuary and the inner sanctuary. Thus he made side chambers all around it.

The lowest chamber was five cubits wide, the middle was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for he made narrow ledges around the outside of the temple, so that the support beams would not be fastened into the walls of the temple.

The main part of the temple was ninety feet long, thirty feet wide, and forty-five feet high. It had a large porch, the full width of the building, with narrow windows throughout. When you think about it, the temple was not a very large building.

NOTE TO TEACHER: Perhaps you could compare these measurements to a building or something else your children can relate to in order to give them an idea of size.

On both sides of the temple, small rooms were built against the outer walls. These rooms were three stories high. The lower floor was 7 1/2 feet wide. There were ledges around the building so that the beams would not be built into the temple walls.

### 1 KINGS 6:7,8

And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

The doorway for the middle story was on the right side of the temple. They went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle to the third.

The blocks used in the construction were pre-finished at the rock quarry so that no building noise was heard at the sight of the temple. The bottom floor of the side rooms was entered from the right side of the temple. There was a winding flight of stairs from the second to the third level.

It would appear that there was a certain reverence that was kept during the building of the temple. The workers respected the things of the Lord and wanted to do an excellent job, using only the best materials. It is an example of how we need to be careful to respect the things of the Lord.

Since as Christians, **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit**, our actions should show reverence and respect for the God we serve. We show reverence and respect as we worship and spend time with the Lord in prayer and study of His Word. We show reverence and respect as we serve Him with our whole heart, our full devotion, desiring to please Him in all we do. **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

1 KINGS 6:9,10

So he built the temple and finished it, and he paneled the temple with beams and boards of cedar.

And he built side chambers against the entire temple, each five cubits high; they were attached to the temple with cedar beams.

After completing the temple, Solomon paneled it all with cedar. The annex of rooms was connected to the temple with cedar beams. Each story of the annex was 7 1/2 feet high.

1 KINGS 6:11-13

Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying:

"Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My Word with you, which I spoke to your father David.

"And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

Then the Lord sent a message to Solomon about the temple. In paraphrase the Lord said, "If you do what I tell you and follow all of my commandments and instructions, I will live among the people of Israel and will never forsake them, just as I promised your father, David."

God promises us a blessed life as we walk in His ways. He promises us He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Just as God's presence would dwell in the temple, the Holy Spirit has come inside our hearts to dwell. **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

## I Am The Temple of the Spirit!

Use the enclosed template; make one copy for each child in your class. You will need various colors of construction paper for the heart, arms and legs, brads or paper fasteners, glue stick and markers.

Have the children cut out the heart, arms, and legs. Next, have them write the phrase, "I am the temple of the Holy Spirit" on to their heart (for younger children, you may need to help them). Next, have them write their names onto the heart. They can color or decorate the heart, arms and legs.

Glue the arms and legs to construction paper to make the craft stronger. Attach the arms and legs to the heart with brads. Reinforce the theme of today's lesson by reminding the children that **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

### 1 KINGS 6:14-18

So Solomon built the temple and finished it.

And he built the inside walls of the temple with cedar boards; from the floor of the temple to the ceiling he paneled the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the temple with planks of cypress.

Then he built the twenty-cubit room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with cedar boards; he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.

And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long.



The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen.

At last the temple was finished. The entire inside, from floor to ceiling, was paneled with cedar and the floors were made of cypress wood. At the far end of the building was a 30-foot inner room which was called the Most Holy Place. It also was paneled from floor to ceiling with cedar. The rest of the temple was 60 feet long. Throughout the temple, the cedar paneling laid over the stone walls and was carved with designs of rosebuds and open flowers.

Note, the workers took much time and diligent effort to cut the stones that would be covered by the wood just right; even the foundation stones were cut just right. God is not only interested in those things that are visible. He also wants those things that are hidden away (invisible) to be done well.

Remember, **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit**. When no one sees your service to the Lord, is it still done with a whole heart, with a fervent desire to please Him? We should desire to do what is pleasing to Him all of the time. In Colossians 3:23 we read, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...”

### 1 KINGS 6:19-22

And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.

The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar.

So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold. He stretched gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold.

The whole temple he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the temple; also he overlaid with gold the entire altar that was by the inner sanctuary.

The inner room at the far end, the Most Holy Place, was where the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was placed. This inner sanctuary was thirty feet wide by thirty feet long and thirty feet high. Its walls and ceiling were overlaid with pure gold. Solomon built a cedar altar for this room and covered it with pure gold. Then he covered the rest of the temple with pure gold. He made gold chains to protect the entrance to the Most Holy Place.

Even as beautiful as that room must have been, its real beauty came from the Lord's presence. **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.** Our real beauty is the presence of the Lord dwelling within.

### 1 KINGS 6:23-28

Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

One wing of the cherub was five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

And the other cherub was ten cubits; both cherubim were of the same size and shape.

The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was the other cherub.

Then he set the cherubim inside the inner room; and they stretched out the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of the one touched one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall. And their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.

Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

In the inner sanctuary, he built two identical cherubim, or angels from olive wood. They were fifteen feet long and fifteen feet high. They were placed so that their wings spread out from wall to wall with their inner wings touching each other in the center of the room. They were both covered with gold.

Imagine how wonderful that must have looked. The priest would only come into this room one day per year on the Day of Atonement when he would sprinkle blood on the altar for the forgiveness of the people's sins. Again, we see God's attention to detail, even though the inner sanctuary would not often be seen.

The work God does deep inside our hearts may not be visible to man. God may want to correct a wrong attitude or teach us to rely on Him more. Perhaps, our service to Lord will be visible to Him alone. That's okay. God knows the kind of temple He wants to fill up with His presence, and He is doing His work in our hearts to make us that temple. Let us trust Him to do a work of art within His temple.

1 KINGS 6:29,30

Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.

And the floor of the temple he overlaid with gold, both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

Figures of angels, palm trees and open flowers were carved on all the walls of both rooms and were covered with gold. He even covered the floor with gold. No expense was spared in order make the most beautiful place possible for the Lord's glory.

### 1 KINGS 6:31-35

For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood; the lintel and doorposts were one-fifth of the wall.

The two doors were of olive wood; and he carved on them figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

So for the door of the sanctuary he also made doorposts of olive wood, one-fourth of the wall.

And the two doors were of cypress wood; two panels comprised one folding door, and two panels comprised the other folding door.

Then he carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers on them, and overlaid them with gold applied evenly on the carved work.

The doorway to the inner sanctuary was made from olive wood. He then made square door-posts of olive wood for the entrance to the Temple. There were two folding doors of cypress wood and each door was hinged to fold back upon itself. All the doors were carved with angels, palm trees, open flowers and were covered with hammered gold.

Notice all of the detail that was taken to build the temple. Sometimes, we may read this list real fast and not stop to consider what this may have been like. There was an incredible amount of detail taken to carve the palm trees, the flowers, and the angels. The workers with the gold used the greatest amount of detail possible to make beautiful works. It must have taken a great deal of time. **We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.** God is concerned about the details of our lives.

### 1 KINGS 6:36-38

And he built the inner court with three rows of hewn stone and a row of cedar beams.

In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

The wall of the inner courtyard had three layers of hewn stone and one layer of cedar beams. The foundation was started in the month of May in the fourth year of Solomon's reign. The entire building was completed in November of the eleventh year. It took seven years to complete from beginning to end.

Solomon's temple was built with the best and the most expensive materials available. No cost was spared. The gold covering made the temple a place of wonderful beauty. It shined to represent the glory of God.

The Bible says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit of God. Nothing has been spared to redeem us, not even the life of His precious Son, Jesus which is more valuable than all the gold covering the temple walls. His blood cleansed and removed our sins so that our lives can become a life of beauty to glorify God.

Solomon, in love and obedience, built the temple. In turn, God promised His blessings upon the Israelites: If they would obey His commands and follow Him, He would live among them and never leave them.

God desires to bless us. If we ask Jesus into our hearts and determine to obey God, He will make something beautiful out of our lives. He promises He will never leave us. Remember, **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit**. May our lives be wholly dedicated to His service!

## Cracker Temple

This is a craft and a snack all in one! You will need graham crackers or saltine crackers, ready made frosting, craft sticks, paper plates and paper towels.

Give each child two full graham crackers (can substitute 8 saltine crackers). Break the crackers into 8 quarter pieces. Dip one edge of the cracker into the frosting. Stick the edge of a second cracker to the frosted edge of the first cracker so that the children can begin to make a small house.

Allow the children to use their imaginations as they build their “cracker house.” As the children build their house ask them about the house that Solomon built for the Lord in our story. Ask the children where the Holy Spirit lives today (in our hearts).

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to remember that they are the temple of the Holy Spirit (if they have received Jesus). May they live a life that glorifies the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

