



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 4, Unit 12, Lesson 3: Solomon Built the Temple

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 6-8

### Personal Preparation

When David was king, he wanted to build a temple for God, but God did not allow him to. God told David, “When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant . . . and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Sam. 7:12-13). God said King David’s son would build the temple.

King Solomon began to gather materials to build the temple. He ordered cedar and cypress timbers from Lebanon. He gathered 30,000 men from all of Israel as laborers to excavate stone and prepare the timbers for the temple’s construction.

The temple was impressive. The entire interior was cedar. King Solomon had everything covered with gold. In all, it took seven years for the temple to be completed. Inside the temple were furniture and accessories (1 Kings 7:48-50).

The time came to dedicate the temple. All of the Israelites gathered in Jerusalem. The priests brought the ark of the Lord to the most holy place, and a cloud filled the house of the Lord. God’s glory filled the temple.

Solomon prayed and praised God for keeping his covenant with David. He recognized that God is not confined to a temple. “Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain you, much less this temple I have built” (1 Kings 8:27). Solomon’s prayer and speech was followed by a great offering to God.

The temple was where God met with his people, and it gave God’s people a more permanent place to worship him. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Jesus changed everything when he died for our sins on the cross. By taking our sin upon himself, Jesus made the way for sinners to come to God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, he is with us wherever we go. We can look to him for forgiveness and help.

Thank God for choosing to dwell among his people. Thank him for sending Jesus to live among us and for sending the Holy Spirit to reside within us. Pray that the individuals would know God’s care and love in choosing to live among us.

### Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by sharing the memory verse with the group.

#### James 1:5

*“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”*

### Points of Emphasis

1. God led his people to build a temple where he would dwell with them.
2. God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

### Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

## Video

Two weeks ago, we learned that God gave Solomon wisdom to lead his people. Last week, we studied some of what Solomon wrote, learning that wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying his Word. This week, we will learn that another thing Solomon did, besides writing songs and poems, was build a temple for God. Let's get into it!

Play the video for the lesson titled "Solomon Built the Temple."

## Bible Lesson

Do you remember when we learned about God's covenant with David? David wanted to build a temple for God. God told David that he would not build a temple, but that his son would. Now we learned about God keeping that promise! God knew exactly when the temple would be constructed because God knows everything. What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

God led his people to build a temple where he would dwell with them. Do you think God needs a temple to live in? No, of course not. He reminded David that he didn't need a temple, but he helped his people build it to show them his desire to be with them. The temple was a place they could gather to worship God and learn about him. It was a place where they could offer sacrifices to cover their sin.

So why don't we have a temple today? Well, the truth is, we kind of do! The Bible teaches us that Christians' bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit! Jesus came to fulfill the law. He is the perfect sacrifice for sin. He died so that we do not have to offer rams, goats, or other sacrifices to cover sin. When we put faith in Jesus—trusting that his sacrifice was enough to cover our sin—the Holy Spirit lives in us, filling us with God's power. In a way, that means that every believer is a temple! We don't need a physical building to be our

temple because Jesus is with us wherever we go, day and night. If you are a Christian, nothing can separate you from God.

## Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

## Christ Connection

The temple was a place where God was with his people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to him for forgiveness and help. We no longer need a place to offer sacrifices, because Jesus' death was enough to cover our sin forever.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on building the temple. Today's episode asks why we have churches today instead of a temple.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. Who promised to dwell among the Israelites if Solomon obeyed him? God
2. Who decided to build the temple? Solomon
3. What did God's glory look like when it filled the temple? A cloud
4. Who asked God to forgive Israel when they sinned? Solomon

Group B

1. What did God promise to do if Solomon obeyed him? Dwell among the Israelites, not abandon them
2. How long did it take Solomon and the workers to finish the temple? Seven years

3. **What did Solomon ask God to do when Israel sinned?** Hear their prayers, forgive them, and restore them when they repent
4. **Does God need a house or a place to live?** God did not need a temple. The temple was a symbol of God's choice to dwell with Israel. God does not need anything from people (Acts 17:24-25). God was and is everywhere, but he showed his presence in a special way to the Israelites through the temple.
5. **How does God dwell with Christians today?** Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit. All who trust in Jesus have the Holy Spirit living inside them. He guides Christians to love and obey Jesus. Christians gather together to worship God and learn about him, but Jesus is with us everywhere.
6. **If Jesus is already with us, why is his return important?** Discuss the difference between Jesus' presence with us now and his physical return to rule as King of kings. When Jesus returns, he will fix everything sin has broken. Jesus' return will signal the full coming of God's kingdom.

#### Group C

1. **Why did Solomon want to build a temple for God?** King David had wanted to build a temple to honor God. God had told King David that his son Solomon would build a temple. Solomon wanted to build the temple to honor God.
2. **The temple Solomon built was where people went to meet with God. Why don't people have to go to a temple now to meet with God?** Because God is holy, sinful people could not approach his presence in the temple. The priest could approach God's presence and obtain forgiveness for people's sin. When Jesus died on the cross, he paid for our sin once and for all. When we trust in him, we have forgiveness and can approach God on our own through prayer, Bible reading, and worship.
3. **How do you feel about communicating with God?** Invite the individuals to share their thoughts and experiences. Emphasize that we can approach God as a loving

Father. He loves his children. We can speak to God through prayer about anything.

#### Group D

##### Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God had met with his people for hundreds of years—ever since God led the Israelites out of Egypt. But God did not allow David to build him a temple. Instead, when God made a covenant with David, God said that David's son would build the temple. We see in our Bible story that God kept his promise. God led his people to build a temple where he would dwell with them. God wants to be with us!
2. **What was the purpose of the temple?** The temple was built for the Israelites to offer sacrifices and worship God. The temple gave the people a more permanent place where they could worship God.
3. **Why do we worship in church buildings today instead of in a temple?**
4. **How can you be a meaningful part of the church?**

#### Prayer

**God, thank you for your Word. We are comforted by the fact that you know everything about the past, present, and future. You are faithful and you keep your promises. We know that the temple did not contain you; you are so great! Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to take away our sin and bring us to you. We love you. Amen.**

