



## Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

**Message:** *In whatever you do, do your BEST for God!*

### Solomon Builds the Temple

Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord. It was 480 years after the people of Israel had come out of Egypt. It was in the fourth year of Solomon's rule over Israel. He started in the second month.

The temple King Solomon built for the Lord was 90 feet long. It was 30 feet wide. And it was 45 feet high. The temple had a porch in front of the main hall. The porch was as wide as the temple itself. It was 30 feet wide. It came out 15 feet from the front of the temple. Solomon made narrow windows high up in the temple walls. He built side rooms around the temple. They were built against the walls of the main hall and the Most Holy Room.

On the first floor the side rooms were seven and a half feet wide. On the second floor they were nine feet wide. And on the third floor they were ten and a half feet wide. Solomon made the walls of the temple thinner as they went up floor by floor. The result was ledges along the walls. So the floor beams of the side rooms rested on the ledges. The beams didn't go into the temple walls.

All of the stones that were used for building the temple were shaped where they were cut. So hammers, chisels and other iron tools couldn't be heard where the temple was being built.

The entrance to the first floor was on the south side of the temple. A stairway led up to the second floor. From there it went on up to the third floor.

So Solomon built the temple and finished it. He made its roof out of beams and cedar boards. He built side rooms all along the temple. Each room was seven and a half feet high. They were joined to the temple by cedar beams.

A message came to Solomon from the Lord. The Lord said, "You are now building this temple. Follow my orders. Keep my rules. Obey all of my commands. Then I will make the promise I gave your father David come true. I will do it through you. I will live among my people Israel. I will not desert them."

So Solomon built the temple and finished it. He put cedar boards on its inside walls. He covered them from floor to ceiling. He covered the temple floor with pine boards. He put up a wall 30 feet from the back of the temple. He made it with cedar boards from floor to ceiling. That formed a room inside the temple. It was the Most Holy Room. The main hall in front of the room was 60 feet long. The inside of the temple was covered with cedar wood. Gourds and open flowers were carved on the wood. Everything was cedar. There wasn't any stone showing anywhere.

Solomon prepared the Most Holy Room inside the temple. That's where the ark of the covenant of the Lord would be placed. The Most Holy Room was 30 feet long. It was 30 feet wide. And it was 30 feet high. Solomon covered the inside of it with pure gold. He prepared the cedar altar for burning incense. He covered it with gold. Solomon covered the inside of the main hall with pure gold. He placed gold chains across the front of the Most Holy Room. That room was covered with gold. So Solomon covered the inside of the whole temple with gold. He also covered the altar for burning incense with gold. It was right in front of the Most Holy Room.

For the Most Holy Room Solomon made a pair of cherubim. He made them out of olive wood. Each cherub was 15 feet high. One wing of the first cherub was seven and a half feet long. The other wing was also seven and a half feet long. So the wings measured 15 feet from tip to tip. The second cherub's wings also measured 15 feet from tip to tip. The two cherubim had the same size and shape. Each cherub was 15 feet high.

Solomon placed the cherubim inside the Most Holy Room in the temple. Their wings were spread out. The wing tip of one cherub touched one wall. The wing tip of the other touched the other wall. The tips of their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. Solomon covered the cherubim with gold.

## **Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - *continued***

On the walls that were all around the temple he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. He carved them on the walls of the Most Holy Room and the main hall. He also covered the floors of those two rooms with gold.

For the entrance to the Most Holy Room he made two doors out of olive wood. Each doorpost had five sides. On the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. He covered the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold.

In the same way he made olive wood doorposts for the entrance to the main hall. Each doorpost had four sides. He also made two pine doors. Each door had two parts. They turned in bases that were shaped like cups. He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on the doors. He covered the doors with gold. He hammered the gold evenly over the carvings. He used blocks of stone to build a wall around the inside courtyard. The first three layers of the wall were made out of stone. The top layer was made out of beautiful cedar wood.

The foundation of the Lord's temple was laid in Solomon's fourth year, during the second month of the year. The temple was finished in his 11th year. That was the eighth month. Everything was finished just as the plans required. Solomon had spent seven years building the temple.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who built the temple in today's lesson? (*King Solomon.*)
2. How long did it take to build? (*Seven Years.*)
3. Do you think that Solomon was talented? In what way? (*Discuss together, answers will vary. He probably was very talented because he built a temple that was very detailed and very beautiful for God.*)
4. Name some of the details from the temple that you remember. (*Teachers – make a list on the easel or white board. Challenge the children to remember as many details as they can. Then allow them to look in their Bibles for more.*)
5. Do you think God was pleased with the Temple that was built? Why or why not? (*Answers will vary. Discuss together.*)

## **Application to Real Life**

Enjoy a fun snack together and allow the children to make a “cracker temple”. You will need graham crackers or saltine crackers, ready-made frosting (peanut butter or cream cheese would be less sugary and work the same), craft sticks and paper plates. The children will each need two full graham crackers (or 8 saltine crackers). Break the crackers into eight (8) quarter pieces. Dip one edge of the cracker into the frosting (or whatever you are using). Then stick the edge of the second cracker to the frosted edge of the first cracker so that they can start to build their temple. Let the children use their imaginations as they build their very own temple.

### **As the children are working, keep the conversation going:**

When Solomon built the Temple of the Lord, he used the best material and best laborers. It took seven years to build, and Solomon didn't skimp on anything, because he knew God deserved the very best. The end result was an incredibly beautiful and unique Temple that God was pleased to fill with His presence.

Ask the children: “Do you try to do your best in everything you do?” Then tell them that doing your best takes effort. It means giving all you've got—and then doing more! When you feel like giving up or doing work that is not your best, remember, your efforts will show. Take pride in what you do and do everything as if you are doing it for the Lord. The results will be worth it. Refer to the message statement and/or memory verse.

1. Recite the memory verse. Practice finding it in the Bible!
2. Name the three Holy Sacraments.
3. Play a game to review a Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

**Activity Ideas**

Choose One

**All Ages****“What’s My Talent?” Activity**See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade School → Games → “what’s my talent”

Before you begin this activity, the children will need to brainstorm a list of talents that people might have. Write down the list on your easel or white board. Examples may include singing, acting, dancing, musician, etc. Try to come up with at least 10 talents. You will choose a volunteer to be the “special guest” and they will be playing the part of one of the talents on the list. The class will be allowed to only ask yes/no questions in order to narrow down the person’s talent. See the above website for complete ideas and instructions.

At the end of the activity, remind the children that we all have different talents because God made each one of us to be unique. Whatever we do, we always want to do our BEST for God. (Refer to the message statement.)

**Grades K-2****“Temple Builders” Puzzle Activity**See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Preschool → Activities → “Temple Builders”

You will need to print out a puzzle page sheet and a puzzle piece sheet for each child. You will also need scissors and glue sticks. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

**Grades 3-5****“With All Your Heart” Activity**

Fold a paper length wise in ½ and then open it up again. There should be two columns. In the first column, have the children make a list of all the things they LOVE to do. It could be anything and as many things as they like. After they have finished, in the second column have the children list all of the things that they really do NOT like to do. When everyone has finished, allow the children time to share their lists, if they like. You (the teacher) can do a list as well.

**Discussion:** When you have a task you don’t want to do, how do we typically respond? Do you complain or work halfheartedly just trying to get it done? We all face many tasks in this life that we don’t want to do. That’s part of living. When the people in the church of Colossae struggled with tasks they didn’t enjoy, God gave them instructions through Paul about how to handle it.

Look up together in your Bibles: **Colossians 3:23** and read what it says. These instructions apply to us today. God wants us to do the best we can in ALL our work, not just in the work we like to do. So when we are facing things we really don’t want to do, like our homework or a particular chore that we despise, if we think about doing it for God instead of for our teacher or our parents, it may help us to put our whole heart into doing our best, no matter what. We want to do our best! Whatever we do, we always want to do our BEST for God.

**Grades K-2**

Draw a picture of yourself using your talents for God.

**Grades 3-5**

Do you try your best in everything you do? Why or why not? Write about it.

What talents do you have? Make a list. Then write about how you can use one (or more) of them for God? Write about it.

**Homework Ideas**

- Read at home with a grown up the story about **Solomon Turns from the Lord** (1 Kings 11:1-13; 41-43).
- Learn the memory verse: *"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me."*  
--Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment # \_\_\_\_.
- Color the Solomon Turns from the Lord coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Who are your friends? Make a list of their names and bring it to class.

**Other Resources**

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → OT Support Curriculum → Page 10 → "Solomon Builds the Temple"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Solomon Turns from the Lord



"I am the Lord your God...Do not put any other gods in place of me."  
-Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)



## Take Home Page: E30. Solomon Builds the Temple

### Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **in whatever we do, we should do our BEST for God.** The children explored how Solomon built God's temple. They also talked about how God expects us to always do our BEST to work and live for Him every day.

### Help me learn my memory verse...

*"Work at everything you do with all your heart..." --Colossians 3:23 (NIRV)*

### Ask me...

1. What do you know about Solomon building the temple for God?
2. Do you think that Solomon was a talented person? How?
3. How can you use your talents for God? Explain.

### Live Your Faith...

*Gather some craft materials or go outside and gather rocks and sticks, etc. Then work together to use the materials to build or make something with them (a house, for example). As you work together, remind your child that no matter what we do, God wants us to do our very best, as if we were doing it for Him. When you are finished with your masterpiece, pray together, and ask God to help you to always have a desire to do your very best in everything that you do.*

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