#### Lesson 10:

#### Solomon’s Temple

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

I Chronicles 28,29

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Worship is one way that I show my love for God. I must worship God in the right ways with the right attitudes (I want to—not I have to).

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

We have been talking about King Solomon, the son of David. Today, we are going to learn about a special place he built for the Israelites to worship God. And we will learn how important it is to worship God in the way He tells us to and with the right attitude.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. The Tabernacle had been the center of the Israelites’ worship for many, many years. The Tabernacle was a big tent that could be taken apart and moved. But King David wanted to give the Israelites a real building—something more permanent, in the capital city of Jerusalem. David planned to build a permanent place of worship as a way to honor God and to thank Him for all the ways God had blessed his life. David spent several years gathering huge amounts of gold (100,000 talents), silver (1,000,000 talents), lumber, and other things for this massive construction project. But God told David to wait and let the next king, his son Solomon, build the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:2-6).
2. Like the great Pharaohs of Egypt thousands of years before him, Solomon was a great builder. He spent 13 years building a great palace for himself, and then he built a palace for one of his wives (an Egyptian princess). He also built a great place of worship for the Israelites—the first Temple in Jerusalem. Construction started in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign as king (about 967 B.C.), 480 years after the Israelites left slavery in Egypt. The site for the Temple was Mount Moriah, where Abraham had been told to offer Isaac over a thousand years before. It was also the place where David had offered sacrifices to God (2 Samuel 24:18-25).
3. It took seven years to complete the building of the magnificent, gold-covered Temple that was to take the place of the Tabernacle. The plan for the Temple followed the original, God-given pattern of the Tabernacle, but the Temple was twice as big (the dimensions were doubled). To show respect for the Lord, during the long building process, neither hammer nor ax nor any other iron tool was used in the city—not even to cut stones (1 Kings 6:7). This Temple (**the first of three**) stood for about 415 years, until Nebuchadnezzar burned it down in 586 B.C.

**HISTORICAL NOTE: Solomon’s Temple** was plundered for treasure several times before it was finally destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar as he carried multitudes of Jews into captivity in Babylon. The **second Temple** was begun in 536 B.C., when over 42,000 Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem from captivity to rebuild the Temple and the city of Jerusalem (see Ezra 1-6). Led by Zerubbabel, the Jews finished the second Temple in 516 B.C. It stood until the time of Herod the Great in the New Testament. In size and dimensions, Zerubabbel’s Temple was considerably larger than Solomon’s, but it was not nearly as elaborate, beautiful, or well furnished. In fact, there was no Ark of the Covenant and no “sacred fire” for this Temple. The **third Temple** (Herod’s Temple) was built over many years, from about 19 B.C. to 62 or 64 A.D. It was finished just a few years before it and all of Jerusalem were destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. (Shortly after this massive destruction, Emperor Hadrian built a large temple to Jupiter on the same site. Today a Muslim temple, the Dome of the Rock, is on the same site.)

1. When the Temple was completed, Solomon prayed a long and beautiful prayer to God and dedicated the spectacular building to Him in the presence of thousands of Israelites. He asked God to bless His people, to forgive them, and to listen to their prayers in good times and bad. Hundreds of thousands of animals were sacrificed to God. Later, God spoke to Solomon with promises of blessings if the people obeyed Him—and curses (promises of punishment) if they did not (1 Kings 9:4-7).
2. Solomon knew that worship was one way to express his love to God and that it had to be done in the ways He commanded. We should never worship God out of habit or because “I have to.” God wants us to worship Him in the right ways, with a good heart; what we do in worship and how we do it are much more important than where we worship. [Discuss with the kids ways that they (we) can be more prepared to worship (have the right frame of mind, etc.). Examples: get enough sleep Saturday night; set out the clothes we want to wear Sunday on Saturday night; make sure our Bibles are by the door or somewhere where we won’t forget them Sunday morning; etc.]

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File is labeled “10”
* Solomon’s Temple Model Book
* Props for telling the story with toys – a full description and script is in the lesson file

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

##### ““The Acts of Worship” ([Click to Hear](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/131song.mp3))

Author: Unknown**\***

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

Let us sing the acts of worship, acts of worship, acts of worship.

Let us sing the acts of worship, there are five in all.

Singing, giving, praying, and preaching, praying and preaching, praying and preaching; Singing, giving, praying, and preaching,

And the Lord’s Sup-per.

SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Give each child a coloring sheet of the Temple, and let them color and decorate it with gold glitter (“[Solomon’s Temple Coloring Sheet](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/3-19-27-134Coloring%20Sheet.pdf)” provided in activity sheets)
* Let the children “build” a temple with Legos®, building blocks, play dough, etc. There is a template for building with the large mega blocks in the visual aid box. Discuss the rooms and furniture that were inside the temple. Review and compare it to the tabernacle.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Discuss the idea that God’s “house” was the Temple in the Old Testament, but the building in which we worship today is not as important to God, since He does not dwell in a building (Acts 7:48; 17:24), but in His saints (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16)—the Church (1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:4-9). Christians of the New Testament worshiped in homes, caves, boats, prisons, the Temple courtyard, etc.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* King Facts Review Game – Discuss new fact cards for Solomon, then review all cards. New cards for this week could include:
  + Built the temple

### Review Questions

### What did David do in preparation for constructing the Temple?

### Gathered massive amounts of materials for building

### Did God let David build the Temple?

### No, He told David to wait and let his son do it.

### How long had Solomon spent building his own palace?

### 13 years

### Where was the Temple going to be built?

### Mount Moriah

### How big was the Temple?

### Double the size of the Tabernacle

### How long did it take to build the Temple?

### Seven years

### Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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