

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 1-11

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

King David was chosen by God to be king of Israel. He ruled Israel for forty years. When he became old, he anointed his son, Solomon, as the next king. David reminded Solomon to walk in the way of the Lord and to follow God's commandments.

King David gave Solomon plans for the temple, or church. Solomon was to build the temple. David asked the people to give freely and from the heart for the building of the temple. King David then died and was buried in Jerusalem.

King Solomon loved the Lord. During a dream, the Lord came to Solomon and asked him, "What do you want Me to give to you?"

Solomon asked for wisdom to rule the kingdom of Israel. God was pleased with this request. He granted Solomon wisdom and He also gave him riches and honor. King Solomon ruled with great wisdom. People from far away heard of Solomon's wisdom.

After four years Solomon began to build the temple. The temple was beautiful. The walls were made from very fine stone. The inside of the temple was made of cedar wood covered with gold. The floor was covered with gold. All the vessels and furnishings in the temple were gold. There was a thick curtain dividing the temple into two parts. The two parts were the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies.

After seven years the temple was completed. Solomon called together all the leaders of Israel for a celebration to dedicate the temple to the Lord. The priests brought the ark of the covenant into the temple. As they were coming out of the Holy of Holies, a bright glory cloud of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. The cloud was so bright the priests had to

leave the temple.

Solomon spoke to the crowd gathered for the dedication. He praised God and asked the Lord to look down in mercy on this house and to hear the prayers of the people.

We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talent, treasure) to glorify God.

Passage

Psalm 84:1 - How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!

Hymn - sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Solomon built God's temple,
God's temple, God's temple.
Solomon built God's temple
With wisdom and with gold.

We can build God's kingdom,
God's kingdom, God's kingdom.
We can build God's kingdom,
By sharing His true Word.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us a place to worship You. Please help us to share Your Word with our family, friends and neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Classroom Activity - Teacher, read the sentences and have the students color the happy face if the sentence is true. Color the sad face if the sentence is false.



1. King David ruled for forty years.



2. Solomon was Saul's son.



3. David told Solomon to obey God.



4. Solomon asked God for riches.



5. Solomon built a temple to God.



6. God gave Solomon many blessings.



7. We will want a church to worship God together.

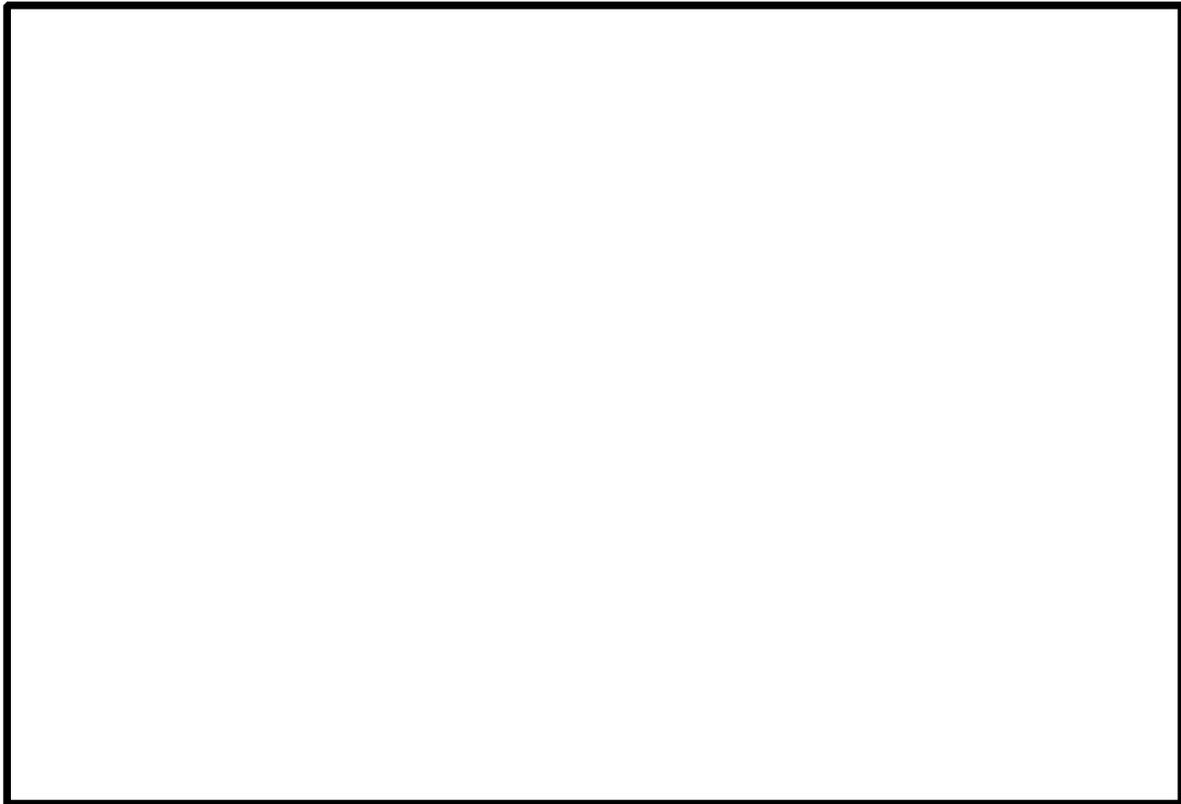


8. God wants us to use our time, talent and treasure for His work.

Classroom Activity Two - We build God's Kingdom by spreading His Word. How can you share God's Word with other people? Talk about it together. Optional Activity: You may want to act out sharing God's Word with neighbors, being a teacher, pastor or missionary in other countries, etc.

Classroom Art Activity - Have the children decorate and name a church for worship. Encourage them to show outward appearances of our faith (cross, name of the church, etc.) and make a place of worship that would show our love for God (neatness, stained glass windows, etc.) Make a thank you prayer to God for giving you a place to worship Him.

name of church



Thank You, Dear Father in Heaven, ...

God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His Name in Solomon's rulership of Israel and in the building of the Temple.



Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 1-11



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The Story

King David ruled Israel for forty years. When he became old, he anointed his son, Solomon, as the next king. David reminded Solomon to walk in the way of the Lord and to follow God's commandments.

King David gave Solomon plans for the temple. Solomon was to build the temple during his reign as king. David encouraged the people to give freely and from the heart for the building of the temple. King David then died and was buried in Jerusalem.

King Solomon loved the Lord. During a dream, the Lord came to Solomon and asked him, "What do you want Me to give to you?"

Solomon asked for wisdom to rule the kingdom of Israel. God was pleased with this request. He granted Solomon wisdom and He also gave him riches and honor. King Solomon ruled with great wisdom. People from far away heard of Solomon's wisdom.

After four years Solomon began to build the temple. The temple was beautiful. The walls were made from very fine stone. The inside of the temple was made of cedar wood covered with gold. The floor was covered with gold. All the vessels and furnishings in the temple were gold. There was a thick curtain dividing the temple into two parts. The two parts were the Holy Place

and the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies.

After seven years the temple was completed. Solomon called together all the leaders of Israel for a celebration to dedicate the temple to the Lord. The priests brought the ark of the covenant into the temple. As they were coming out of the Holy of Holies, a bright glory cloud of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. The cloud was so bright the priests had to leave the temple.

Solomon spoke to the crowd gathered for the dedication. He praised God and asked the Lord to look down in mercy on this house and to hear the prayers of the people.

During the last years of Solomon's life he began to pray to idols. This made God angry. God took part of the kingdom away from Solomon's family. After Solomon's death his family ruled only two tribes of Israel instead of all twelve tribes.

**We should use all the blessings
God gives us
(time, talent, treasure)
to glorify God in our work,
worship and recreation.**

Activity One - Color the happy face if the sentence is true. Color the sad face if the sentence is false.



1. King David ruled for forty years.



2. Solomon was Saul's son.



3. David told Solomon to obey God.



4. Solomon asked God for riches.



5. Solomon built a temple to God.



6. God gave Solomon many blessings.



7. Solomon followed God's ways all his life.



8. Solomon's family would rule two tribes of Israel.

Activity Two - Draw a picture of your church below. Thank God for giving you a place to worship Him.

Activity Three - We build God's Kingdom by spreading His Word. How can you share God's Word with other people? Talk about it together.

Passage

Psalm 84:1 - How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!

Hymn

 - TLH #466 v. 1

Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
Thou the Head and Cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
And her Confidence alone.

Optional Hymn - sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

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Solomon built God's temple
With wisdom and with gold.

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Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us a place to worship You. Please help us to share Your Word with our family, friends and neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor. Solomon used these gifts to glorify God during his rulership of Israel and in the building of the God's Temple.



The Story

King David ruled Israel for forty years. When David became old, Nathan anointed David's son, Solomon, as the next king. David reminded Solomon to walk in the way of the Lord and to follow God's commandments.

King David also gave Solomon plans for building the temple of God. Solomon was to build the temple during his reign as king. David encouraged the people to give gifts freely from the heart for the building of the temple. King David then died and was buried in Jerusalem.

King Solomon loved the Lord. During a dream, the Lord came to Solomon and asked him, "What do you want Me to give to you?"

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The two parts were the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place also called the Holy of Holies.

It took seven years to finish building the temple. Solomon called together all the leaders of Israel for a celebration to dedicate the temple to the Lord. The priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the temple. As they were coming out of the Holy of Holies, a bright cloud of the glory of the Lord filled the House of the Lord. The cloud was so bright the priests had to leave the temple.

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During the last years of Solomon's life, he began to pray to idols. This made God angry. God took part of the kingdom away from Solomon's family. After Solomon's death his family ruled only two tribes of Israel instead of all twelve tribes.

**We should use all the blessings
God gives us
(time, talent, treasure)
to glorify God in our work,
worship and recreation.**

Activity One - Circle T if the sentence is True. Circle F if the sentence is False.

- T F 1. King David ruled for forty years.
- T F 2. Solomon was Saul's son.
- T F 3. David told Solomon to obey God.
- T F 4. Solomon asked God for riches.
- T F 5. Solomon built a temple to God.
- T F 6. God gave Solomon many blessings.
- T F 7. Solomon followed God's ways all his life.
- T F 8. Solomon's family would rule two tribes of Israel.

Activity Two - Draw a picture of your church below. Thank God for giving you a place to worship Him.

Activity Three - We build God's Kingdom by spreading His Word. How can you share God's Word with other people? Talk about it together.

Passages

Psalm 84:1 - How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Hymn - TLH #466 v. 1, 4

Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
Thou the Head and Cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
And her Confidence alone.

Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory,
While unending ages run. Amen.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us a place to worship You. Please help us to share Your Word with our family, friends and neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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It usually isn't enough just to say words; you need to mean them.

For example, it wouldn't make any sense at all if you would tell your parents, "I love you," but then go about disobeying them and mistreating them.

Saying words like, "I love you," would be much better followed up with helping to keep the house clean, doing the dishes, or mowing the lawn.

See if you can find the ways in which King Solomon showed or failed to show his love for his God.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

You have given me so much. Please help me to learn from Solomon so that I, too, will use the time, talents and treasures You have given me in a God-pleasing way. Be with me as I listen and study Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 1-11

SOLOMON ANOINTED - Now when King David was old, advanced in years, he ordered Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet to anoint Solomon as king over Israel. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

DAVID'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO SOLOMON - When the days of David drew near that he should die, he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man; and walk in the ways of the LORD your God, to keep His statutes, commandments, judgments and testimonies, that you may prosper in all that you do.

Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary."

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the courts of the house of the LORD and of all the chambers all around.

Then the leaders of the tribes of Israel offered willingly for the house of the LORD gold, silver,

bronze, iron, and precious stones; with a loyal heart they offered willingly to the LORD. And David rejoiced greatly and blessed the LORD.

So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER - And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David. Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I



may discern between good and evil."

And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor riches, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor. So if you walk in My ways, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and offered up burnt offerings.

SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT - Then two women who were harlots came to the king. And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son."

Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.

And he said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

And all Israel heard of the judgment, and they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

SOLOMON PREPARES TO BUILD THE TEMPLE - Then Solomon sent to Hiram, king of Tyre, saying, "Behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD. Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and I will pay you wages for your servants." So Hiram gave

Solomon cedar and cypress logs.

And Solomon sent thirty thousand workers to Lebanon. And Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains, besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work. And they quarried large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation.

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE - In the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of Egypt, Solomon began to build the house of the LORD.

Its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits. The vestibule in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the breadth of the house, and its width extended ten cubits from the front of the house. Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around.

And the temple 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 MOST HOLY PLACE - And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. It was twenty cubits long, wide, and high. The whole temple he overlaid with gold. He was seven years in building it.

THE DEDICATION - And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, to the Most Holy Place. And when the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: "LORD God of Israel, behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day.

"When Your people are defeated before an enemy; when the heavens are shut up and there is no rain; when there is famine in the land, or pestilence, whatever plague or sickness there is; whatever prayer and supplication is made by anyone toward this temple, then hear in heaven and forgive Your people who have sinned

against You."

And Solomon arose from before the altar of the LORD, and blessed all the congregation of Israel.

And Solomon offered a sacrifice to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him.

SOLOMON'S LAST DAYS - But King Solomon loved many foreign women. When he was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

So the LORD became angry and said, "Because you have not kept My covenant, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David."

Now it happened at this time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field.

Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you.'"

SOLOMON'S DEATH - And the period that Solomon reigned over all Israel was forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His Name in Solomon's rulership of Israel and in the building of the Temple.

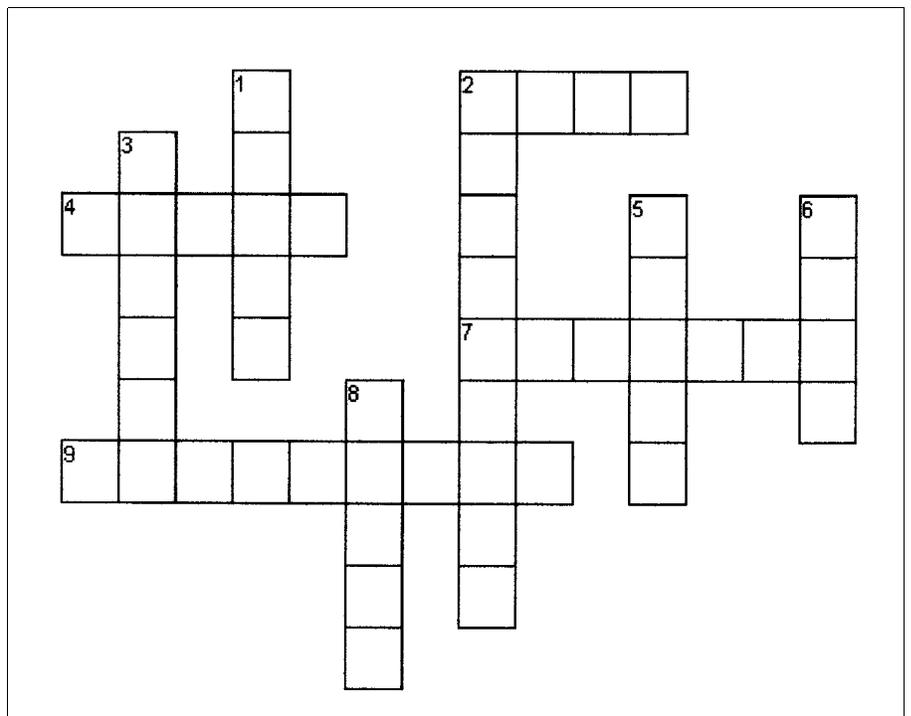
What the Story Tells Us - Complete the Crossword Puzzle with answers from the story.

Across

2. what a woman mistakenly killed by rolling on it in the night
4. Solomon asked the Lord for an understanding one of these to judge the people
7. the third king of Israel
9. the capital city of Israel

Down

1. the king of Tyre
2. Solomon's mother
3. what Solomon spent 7 years building in Jerusalem
5. what Solomon's unbelieving wives led him to worship
6. Solomon was one
8. Solomon's father



What God's Word Tells Us

SOLOMON BECOMES KING - Find the correct answers below.

1. Solomon became the (second -- third -- fourth) king of Israel.
2. Who were the priest and prophet involved in Solomon's anointing as king?
3. When David died, where was he buried? (Jerusalem -- Bethlehem -- Hebron -- Gibeon)
4. What preparations had David made for the building of the Temple? *Choose one.*
() He had prepared the foundations.
() He had caused much of the lumber to be cut.
() He had prepared the pattern (plans) for it.
5. T F The people gave willingly of their time and treasures for the Temple construction.
6. T F It was extremely noisy while the Temple was being built.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER -- Put the proper word in the blank.

riches	Gibeon	Israel	ask	wise	understanding
sacrifice	pleased	fame	dream	prayer	

King Solomon went to _____ to offer a _____. While he was there the LORD appeared to him in a _____, saying, "_____ whatever you want of Me."

Solomon asked for a _____ and _____ heart to be able to judge God's great people, the children of _____.

The LORD was _____ with Solomon's _____, and gave him not only what he had asked for, but also great _____ and _____ as well.

THE TWO WOMEN -- True and False

1. T F The two women were next door neighbors.
2. T F Each woman had a child.
3. T F The one child died because of a high fever.

4. T F The mother of the dead child exchanged him for the living one.
5. T F This was done while the mother of the dead child was sleeping.
6. T F The mother of the living child discovered the trade in the middle of the night.
7. T F At the trial both mothers claimed the living child.
8. T F The king actually intended to have the child cut in two.
9. T F The real mother said, "Give her the child; don't kill him."
10. T F Solomon gave the living child to the wrong mother.

WORK ON THE TEMPLE

1. Hiram was king of (Ammon -- Syria -- Egypt -- Tyre).
2. What kind of wood did Solomon want from Hiram? *Circle all correct answers.*
poplar -- maple -- fir -- cedar -- oak -- cypress
3. Write down how many men of Israel did each of the following:
 - a. helped cut trees in Lebanon _____
 - b. were burden bearers _____
 - c. quarried stone in the mountains _____
 - d. overseers and managers _____
4. The whole Temple was overlaid with (bronze -- silver -- gold -- copper).
5. How long did it take to build the Temple?
6. What does it mean to "dedicate" the Temple?
7. When Solomon said, "LORD, the heavens cannot contain You," what was he revealing about God?
 - a. He is holy.
 - b. He is omnipresent.
 - c. He is eternal.

Inner Aim - We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talent, treasure) to glorify God in our work, worship and recreation.

SOLOMON'S LATER YEARS

1. What led King Solomon away from the LORD?
 - a. His great wealth
 - b. His great fame
 - c. His heathen wives and concubines
2. How many wives and concubines did Solomon have?
3. Does this mean that we today should be careful who we take as a spouse?
4. What did God cause to happen because of Solomon's sin?
 - a. The people rebelled against him.
 - b. God caused a large part of the kingdom to be torn from his family.
 - c. Solomon's enemies overpowered him.
5. How long did Solomon reign?
6. Who took over the throne after Solomon?

Passages

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalm 26:8 - LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 84:12 - O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #466 v. 1, 4

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And he said, "Divide the living child in two,

and give half to one, and half to the other."

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SOLOMON PREPARES TO BUILD THE TEMPLE

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THE DEDICATION - And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, to the Most Holy Place. And when the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: "LORD God of Israel, behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day.

"When Your people are defeated before an enemy; when the heavens are shut up and there is no rain; when there is famine in the land, or pestilence, whatever plague or sickness there is; whatever prayer and supplication is made by anyone toward this temple, then hear in heaven and forgive Your people who have sinned against You."

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the LORD, and blessed all the congregation of Israel.

And Solomon offered a sacrifice to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him.

SOLOMON'S LAST DAYS - But King Solomon loved many foreign women. When he was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

So the LORD became angry and said, "Because you have not kept My covenant, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David." Now it happened at this time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field.

Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you.'"

SOLOMON'S DEATH - And the period that Solomon reigned over all Israel was forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His Name in Solomon's rulership of Israel and in the building of the Temple.

Inner Aim - We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talent, treasure) to glorify God in our work, worship and recreation.

What the Story Tells Us - Complete the Crossword Puzzle with answers from the story.

Across

2. what a woman mistakenly killed by rolling on it in the night

4. Solomon asked the Lord for an understanding one of these to judge the people

7. the third king of Israel

9. the capital city of Israel

Down

1. the king of Tyre

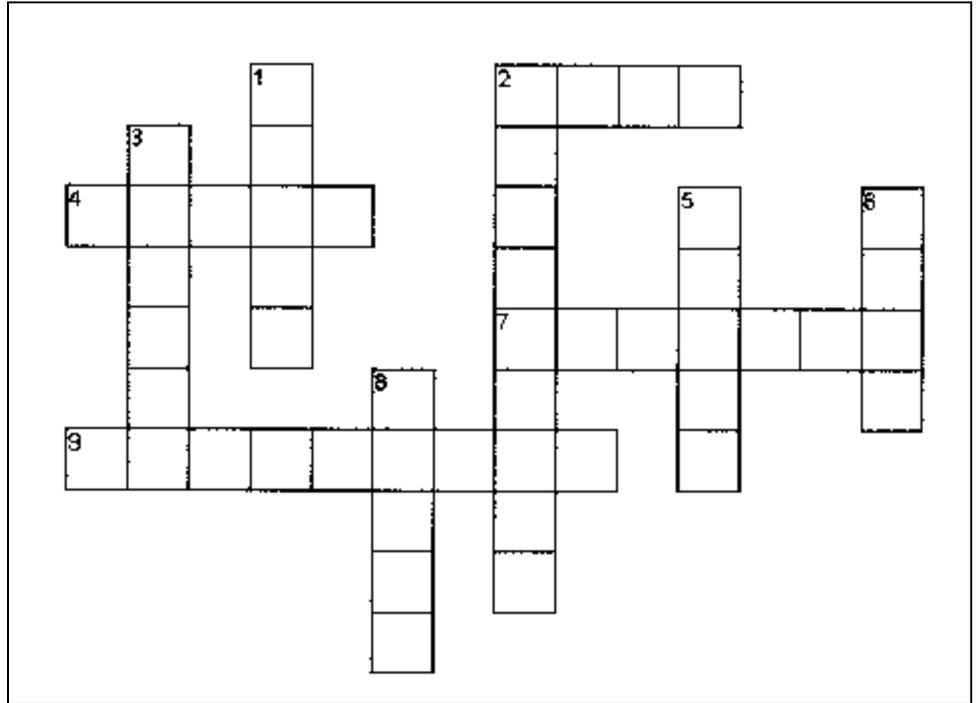
2. Solomon's mother

3. what Solomon spent 7 years building in Jerusalem

5. what Solomon's unbelieving wives led him to worship

6. Solomon was one

8. Solomon's father



What God's Word Tells Us

SOLOMON BECOMES KING - Find the correct answers below.

1. Solomon became the (second -- third -- fourth) king of Israel.
2. Who were the priest and prophet involved in Solomon's anointing as king?
3. When David died, where was he buried? (Jerusalem -- Bethlehem -- Hebron -- Gibeon)
4. What preparations had David made for the building of the Temple? *Choose one.*
() He had prepared the foundations.
() He had caused much of the lumber to be cut.
() He had prepared the pattern (plans) for it.
5. T F The people gave willingly of their time and treasures for the Temple construction.
6. T F It was extremely noisy while the Temple was being built.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER -- Put the proper word in the blank.

riches	Gibeon	Israel	ask	wise	understanding
sacrifice	pleased	fame	dream	prayer	

King Solomon went to _____ to offer a _____. While he was there the LORD appeared to him in a _____, saying, "_____ whatever you want of Me."

Solomon asked for a _____ and _____ heart to be able to judge God's great people, the children of _____.

The LORD was _____ with Solomon's _____, and gave him not only what he had asked for, but also great _____ and _____ as well.

THE TWO WOMEN -- True and False

1. T F The two women were next door neighbors.
2. T F Each woman had a child.
3. T F The one child died because of a high fever.
4. T F The mother of the dead child exchanged him for the living one.
5. T F This was done while the mother of the dead child was sleeping.
6. T F The mother of the living child discovered the trade in the middle of the night.
7. T F At the trial both mothers claimed the living child.
8. T F The king actually intended to have the child cut in two.
9. T F The real mother said, "Give her the child; don't kill him."
10. T F Solomon gave the living child to the wrong mother.

WORK ON THE TEMPLE

1. Hiram was king of (Ammon -- Syria -- Egypt -- Tyre).
2. What kind of wood did Solomon want from Hiram? *Circle all correct answers.*
poplar -- maple -- fir -- cedar -- oak -- cypress

3. Write down how many men of Israel did each of the following:
 - a. helped cut trees in Lebanon _____
 - b. were burden bearers _____
 - c. quarried stone in the mountains _____
 - d. overseers and managers _____
4. The whole Temple was overlaid with (bronze -- silver -- gold -- copper).
5. How long did it take to build the Temple?
6. What does it mean to "dedicate" the Temple?
7. When Solomon said, "LORD, the heavens cannot contain You," what was he revealing about God?
 - a. He is holy.
 - b. He is omnipresent.
 - c. He is eternal.

SOLOMON'S LATER YEARS

1. What led King Solomon away from the LORD?
 - a. His great wealth
 - b. His great fame
 - c. His heathen wives and concubines
2. How many wives and concubines did Solomon have?
3. Does this mean that we today should be careful who we take as a spouse?

4. What did God cause to happen because of Solomon's sin?
 - a. The people rebelled against him.
 - b. God caused a large part of the kingdom to be torn from his family.
 - c. Solomon's enemies overpowered him.
5. How long did Solomon reign?
6. Who took over the throne after Solomon?
7. THOUGHT QUESTION: Did Solomon die a believer?

Passages

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalm 26:8 - LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 84:12 - O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #466 v. 1, 4

Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
Thou the Head and Cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
And her Confidence alone.

Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory,
While unending ages run. Amen.



STORY

Solomon as King and the Building the Temple - I Kings 1-11 and I Chronicles 28-29

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Jesus, the Wisdom from on high, I pray that You fill my heart with the wisdom of Your Word so that I can proclaim that wisdom to my students. Do not let me trust or rely upon my own wisdom or abilities, but fill me with the Holy Spirit so the words I teach are truly from You. May this heavenly Wisdom remain in my heart and my students' hearts and lives forever until we stand before You in perfect wisdom, righteousness and peace. I ask this in Your name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

OUTER AIM

God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His name in his rulership of Israel and in the building of the Lord's house.

INNER AIM

We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talents, treasures) to glorify God in our work, worship and recreation.

BACKGROUND

Our lesson takes place about ten years after Absalom's rebellion and death. David is now 70 years old. His son, Solomon, is appointed to rule in his place when he dies. Solomon became a world famous king, noted for his wisdom and his wealth. He begins his rule like his father David and like King Saul; a God-fearing, obedient child of God. The most prominent event in his life was the building of the magnificent and extraordinarily beautiful house of God, the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon built the temple not to enhance or further his own fame and glory, but to glorify God and to further the spread of His spiritual kingdom on earth. He would give to God the best he and his people had to offer.

1:5-6

- Adonijah tried to usurp the throne by exalting himself as the next king after David.
- David did not rebuke him, either because of his old age or simple lack of fatherly discipline.

1:11-14

- Nathan and Bathsheba plan to speak to David to tell him what is happening with Adonijah and get him to proclaim Solomon king as he had sworn earlier.

2:1-9

- A dying father's words to his son. Wise advice and fatherly admonition.
- 1) Be strong in faith and courageous in battle
- 2) Walk in the ways of the LORD, keeping His statutes (Mosaic laws); His commandments the 10 Commandments; His judgments (ceremonial and civil laws); His testimonies (the revelations of God's covenant of grace with His people concerning the Messiah).

I Chronicles 28-29

- David gives Solomon plans for the temple, no doubt given to him by God in a vision
- David also encourages all the people to give from their hearts for this house of God and there was a great response. They "gave willingly." The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.

I Kings 3:5-9

- Solomon acknowledges God's great mercy to him. He realizes his youthful inexperience (about 20 years old).
- Solomon shows his faith and love for the LORD by not asking for wealth and fame, but as a benefit and blessing for the people-an understanding heart and wisdom to govern justly, wisely and well.

3:10-14

- Solomon's request sought 1) the glory of God and 2) the welfare of his fellow man. The LORD grants not only an understanding heart beyond any man before or since, but also great wealth and honor so that he will have no equal. Matt. 6:33

3:16-28

- Solomon's wisdom is put into practice and seen in this judgment. Solomon knew the love of a mother for her own child. The people held him in awe, yet acknowledged that his wisdom came from God.

5:1-8

- King Hiram, dear friend of David and Solomon. It appears Hiram had a heart knowledge of the LORD Jehovah as well. Brought down cedars from Lebanon and also pine or fir logs.

5:5

- A prophecy with an immediate and a future meaning. Solomon is a type of Christ because it was foretold of Him that He would build God's house. Christ's house is not made of wood or stone, but is a spiritual temple, an eternal house and kingdom, which is the house of the Church of Jesus Christ, all believers. All of us, like Solomon and his people, are called to help build this temple, His Kingdom!

5:9

- The logs were floated down to Joppa and then hauled overland to Jerusalem -quite an undertaking.

5:13-18

- 30,000 laborers to Lebanon: 10,000 a month with 2 months off; 70,000 carrying burden; 80,000 stone cutters; 3,600 supervisors

6:1-38

- Time: 480th year after the exodus from Egypt; the fourth year of Solomon's reign. Place: Mt. Moriah, where Abraham sacrificed Isaac; where David erected an altar during the time of the plague; where in the future, the Messiah would walk and speak and be judged by the Sanhedrin and was crucified.
- Size: arrangements the same as the tabernacle, but twice as large. 900 x 600 feet; temple proper: 90'1 x 30'w x 45'h
- Materials: Built of white and rose-tinted marble, cedar and fir (most lasting wood). It's front toward the east. See Rup. Pg. 329-331 for more details of the temple. Time of building: It took 7 ½ years; estimated cost: \$2,450 million. It was the most magnificent edifice in the world at the time.

7:1-39

- It took Solomon 13 years to build his palace after the temple was completed.

8:1-21

- Representatives from all 12 tribes. There were many people, it required 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep to feed them. The Lord's presence was in the cloud that filled the temple. The Lord showed His pleasure to live in this temple with His presence. NOTE: The dedication of our churches, school buildings, parsonages and teacherages means to set it apart for sacred use - for the glory of God.

8:22-53

- Solomon's dedication prayer gives praise to God requests His continued presence even in bad times, and asks God to hear their prayers and to forgive their sins. These are the small ways of salvation for the New Testament believer. Acts. 15:11 "We shall be saved in the same manner as they (O.T.), through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ."

11:1-13

- Unfortunately Solomon was led astray by the many foreign heathen wives whom he married. A warning to all, not to despise the Law of the Lord and put oneself into a place of temptation. He burned incense and offered sacrifices to these idols. In Deut. 17:17, the Lord warns Kings not to take wives to themselves for this very reason.
- There is danger in mixed marriages, especially if the one spouse is not a Christian. Our children need to be advised of this before their dating begins. If a love does grow between the two, the danger should be clearly revealed so that a blessing may result (conversion of a spouse) and not a curse (the falling away of the once faithful spouse).
- Two dangers: 1) seduced to follow false doctrine; 2) fall from faith.
- The great blessing: bring the unbelieving spouse to Christ or lead him or her out of false doctrine to the truth.
- Punishment from God upon faithless Solomon: the Kingdom would be torn into two nations; but in mercy (showing love for David) it would not happen in Solomon's lifetime.

11:41-43

- It seems that Solomon's last days were blessed ones. He wrote Ecclesiastes late in life, when near his death, he preaches of the perishability of everything earthly and that the joys and glories of this world as only vanity (emptiness). The true lasting joy and glory are in Christ and His Word.
- He is described as having slept with his fathers and is counted with the faithful, being buried in Jerusalem.
- Jesus mentions Solomon and honors him. This would not likely be so, had Solomon died in unbelief like the fallen King Saul.

Solomon was 58 years old at the time his death.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, I pray that You ever keep me in the wisdom of Your Word so that I do not trust in my own wisdom or intellect. I thank You for all of the lessons You have taught me in my Sunday School. May these lessons give me the true wisdom to be able to rely upon You throughout all the days of my life. May we children always love Your house and come as often as we can to worship You. As we hear Your word, help us to learn the way of salvation better and better. Help us learn to do Your will more and more until we are taken to be with You for an eternity of worship and praise in heaven. Hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Teacher should tell the story with perhaps a model to the temple to scale. The following website has a good picture of a model of the temple. <http://www.yahrzeit.org/temple.html>

APPLICATION

Ask the children what they pray for. Make a list. Do material things top the list? Do they ever pray for wisdom; wisdom to learn their lessons, to know right from wrong, to be able to understand and live according to God's Word? Encourage prayer at all times: before school, before tests, for parents, brothers and sisters, teachers and pastors, the government, good weather, friends, etc..

We, like Solomon, should spend our time, efforts, and talents in building up the house of God: HIS CHURCH. This means more than just a building. It means helping to spread the Word through missions (providing for missionaries and their expenses) and at home, by providing for pastor's and teachers' salaries and paying bills. Children can be encouraged to bring friends and neighbors to our Lord, thereby building the Spiritual kingdom!

Solomon first built the Lord's house, then built his own. Our firstfruits should be given to our Lord, not the leftovers. We give to our Lord, not out of necessity, grudgingly or being forced; but freely, willingly, out of love. Christ's love compels us. We rejoice when we see each other willingly, freely giving of our time and talents to the Lord, not comparing each other's gifts, but rejoicing in the blessed privilege and opportunity to be able to help by giving.

Ask the students the following questions: Why do we dedicate churches?--To set them apart for use in the Lord's kingdom. Why is the church the house of God?--Because God is present in the church. Where is His presence evident?--God is present in His WORD AND SACRAMENTS. How do we act in this house of God?--We are reverent and worshipful to the Lord.

Encourage the older children to be very selective in their dating choices. Remind them the blessings of a Christian spouse, especially of the same synod.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalm 84:1 - "How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!"

Middle

Psalm 26:8 - "LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells."

I Corinthians 10:12 - "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Psalm 84:12 - "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!"

Upper

Psalm 84:10 - "For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

HYMN CHOICES

Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation - TLH #466

My Soul, Be on Thy Guard - TLH #449

Here in Thy Name, Eternal God - TLH #635