

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 1-11



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.



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"

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.