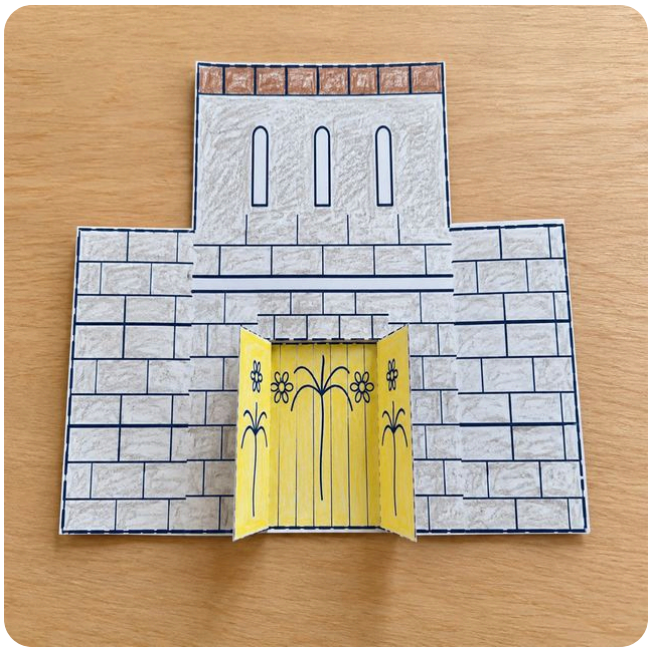
Preschool–Grade 5

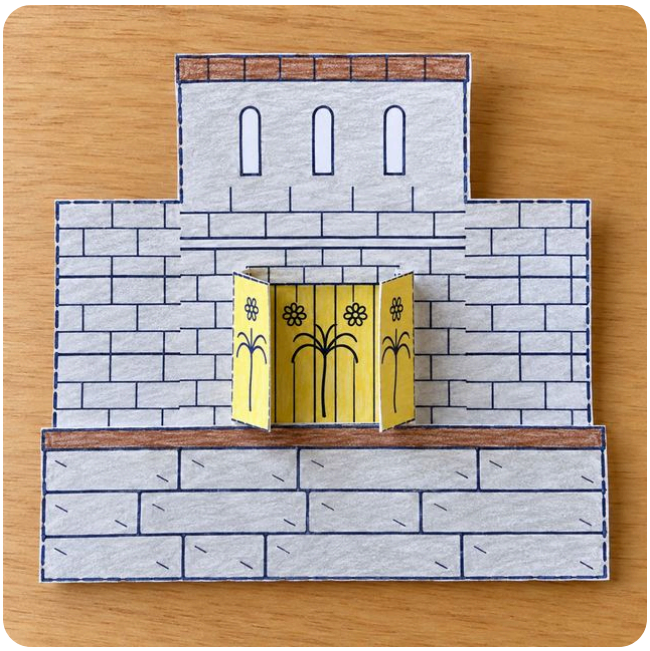
Solomon's Temple Craft

All was cedar; there was no stone seen · 1 Kings 6; 8:1–11 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

Both levels are a paper house of the LORD: light gray stone, brown cedar beams across the top, narrow windows and a porch, with two yellow (gold) doors that open on the house within, colored gold with carved palm trees and open flowers. "All was cedar; there was no stone seen" (1 Kings 6:18), and Solomon "overlaid the house within with pure gold" (6:21). Medium (left): the house. Harder (right): the same house with the inner court wall below it, three rows of stone and a cedar beam (6:36).

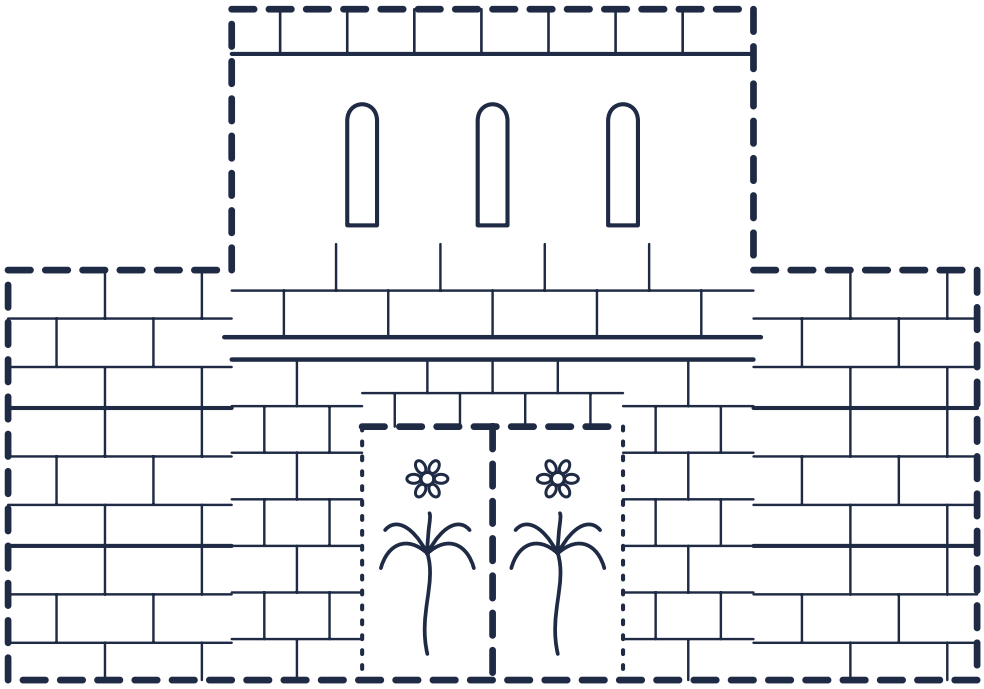
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines

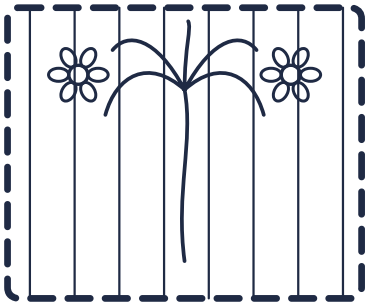
The house of the LORD (front)

Cut the doorway on the dashed lines and fold the two doors open on the dotted lines.



stone: light gray · cedar beams at the top: brown · doors: yellow (gold) · windows: leave white

the house within: color it yellow



And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

1 Kings 6:13 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back, above the doorway

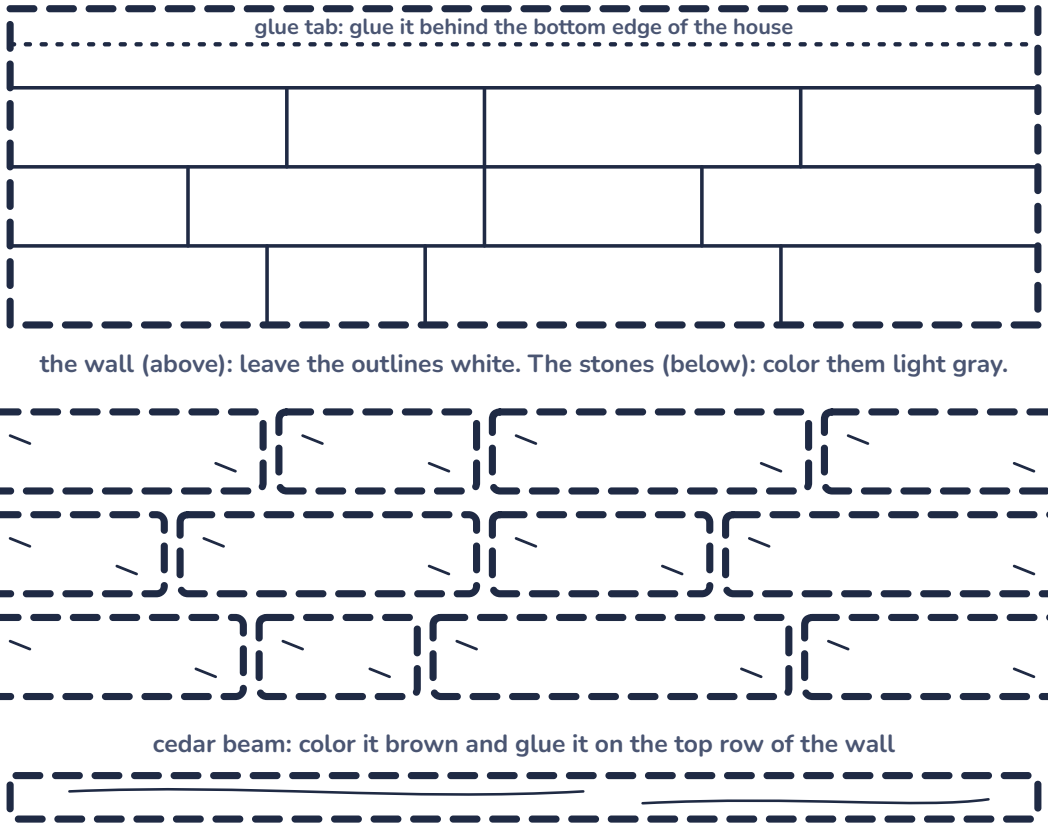
Glue the house within on the back, behind the doorway, picture to the front.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

The inner court wall (harder level)

Three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams (1 Kings 6:36)



How to build the inner court wall

1. Make the house from page 2 first.
2. Color the twelve stones light gray and the cedar beam brown. Leave the wall strip white.
3. Cut out the wall strip, the twelve stones and the cedar beam on the dashed lines.
4. Glue each stone on the outline it fits. Every stone fits only one place, so the wall goes together quietly, like the house (1 Kings 6:7). Glue the cedar beam on the top row.
5. Fold the glue tab back on the dotted line and glue it behind the bottom edge of the house, so the wall sits below it.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/solomons-temple-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light gray, brown and yellow crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the house, the house within and the verse strip ahead of time. Cut the doorway open, fold the doors, and glue the house within and the verse strip on the back.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces, cut the doorway and glue the house within and the verse on the back. Kids color the stone light gray, the beams brown and the doors yellow, then open the doors to see the gold inside.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, open the doors and glue the house within behind them. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the house like the medium level. Then build the inner court wall from page 3, with twelve ready-made stones and a cedar beam (1 Kings 6:36). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the stone light gray, the cedar beams across the top brown and the two doors yellow, for gold. Leave the windows white. Color the house within yellow too.
2. **Cut:** cut out the house, the house within and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Doors:** cut across the top of the doorway and down the middle on the dashed lines (a grown-up can start the cut). Fold the two doors open on the dotted lines.
4. **Inside and verse:** turn the house over. Glue the house within behind the doorway, picture side to the front, so it shows when the doors open. Glue the verse strip on the back above it.
5. **Tell it:** shut the doors. The stone was made ready before it was brought, so no hammer was heard (1 Kings 6:7): tap the house with one finger, quietly. Open the doors: "all was cedar; there was no stone seen" (6:18), and Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold (6:21).
6. **Verse:** read the verse strip together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who built the house of the LORD, and when did he begin? *(King Solomon, in the fourth year of his reign, 1 Kings 6:1)*
- How big was it? *(60 cubits long, 20 wide and 30 high, about 90 by 30 by 45 feet, 6:2)*
- What was in front of the house? *(The porch, 6:3)*
- Tap the house. What was not heard while it was built? *(Hammer, axe or any tool of iron, 6:7)*
- Open the doors. What was inside the walls? *(Cedar, carved with knops and open flowers; no stone was seen, 6:18)*
- What covered the house within? *(Pure gold, 6:21)*
- How long did Solomon build? *(Seven years, 6:38)*
- What filled the house when the priests brought in the ark and came out? *(The cloud; the glory of the LORD, 8:10–11)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** the **house of the LORD** is the temple; a **cubit** is about 18 inches; **made ready** means cut and shaped ahead of time; **cedar** is a fine wood; **overlaid** means covered; **knops** are round knobs; **hewed stone** is cut stone; **dwell** means live; **forsake** means leave alone.
- **What the Bible says:** the house had a porch in front (1 Kings 6:3), narrow windows (6:4) and chambers built all around its walls in three floors (6:5–6, 6:8). The house had two doors, each with two folding leaves, carved with cherubims, palm trees and open flowers and covered with gold (6:34–35). The Bible doesn't describe the roof or say what color the stone was, so the craft keeps them plain.
- **What the craft leaves out:** the cherubims (6:23–29) and the ark of the covenant (8:6) are inside the house, but they are not drawn; the carvings show only palm trees and open flowers. Tell about them from the story.
- **No people are drawn, and never God:** the glory of the LORD filled the house (8:11); it is told, not drawn.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and cut the doorway ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child whisper, "Shh, no hammer!" and open the doors to see the gold.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Solomon's temple lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/solomons-temple.

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