Preschool–Grade 6

Solomon Builds the Temple

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God wants to be with His people.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 6 and 8. Read 1 Kings 6 and 1 Kings 8:1–11 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I will dwell among the children of Israel" *1 Kings 6:13 (KJV)*. The old word **dwell** means live.
You need: a Bible, building blocks, something yellow or gold (a scarf, paper or a crayon), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 6.

1. Opening game: Shh, Builders! (5 minutes)

Give the kids the blocks. Say: "Let's build a house, but very, very quietly! Shh!" Build together with whisper voices and soft hands. Then build again with "loud" hands and see the difference. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a big house for God that was built very quietly."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Solomon was a king (1 Kings 6:1). *(Put your hands on your head like a crown.)*
King Solomon built a house for God (6:1). *(Stack your fists, one on top of the other.)*
The house was big and tall (6:2). *(Reach up high.)*
The stones were made ready first (6:7). *(Pretend to carry a heavy stone.)*
No hammer, no axe! Shh! (6:7) *(Finger on your lips.)*
Say it with me: "Shh! They built God's house!"
He made the walls of wood inside (6:15). *(Pat the wall.)*
He covered it all with gold (6:22). *(Wave the gold scarf or paper.)*
It took seven years (6:38). *(Hold up seven fingers.)*
A cloud filled God's house (8:10). *(Make big circles with your arms.)*
God was there with His people (8:11). *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God wants to be with me!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who built a house for God? *(King Solomon, 1 Kings 6:1)*
2. Did they hear a hammer? *(No, 6:7)*
3. What filled God's house? *(A cloud, 8:10)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'I will dwell among the children of Israel.' Dwell means live. God wanted to live with His people." Teach the motion: point up for God, then sweep your arms around the whole room for His people. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Kings 6:13" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: God's Golden House (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big house with a door. Then they color it yellow, for gold. While they color, ask: "Who built God's house? Did they hear a hammer?" Kids who finish early can build quietly with the blocks again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for wanting to be with me.
I love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child carry a "heavy stone" (a block) to the building and set it down without a sound. Keep the story short and happy. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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