Preschool–Grade 6

Solomon Builds the Temple

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God wants to live with His people, and He does not leave those who walk with Him.
Bible passage: 1 Kings 6 and 1 Kings 8:1–11. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel." *1 Kings 6:13 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, building blocks or plastic cups, 5 paper "bricks" (paper rectangles), a marker, tape, paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 5 paper bricks (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Kings 6:7.

1. Opening game: Quiet Builders (5 minutes)

Make two teams. Each team builds a tower with the blocks or cups, but nobody may make a sound: no talking, no knocking, no clatter. If you hear a sound, that team freezes and counts to five silently before building again. After two minutes, see whose tower is tallest. Ask: *Was it hard to build without a sound?* Say: "Today we will hear about a big house that was built so quietly that no hammer was heard!"

2. Bible story: Solomon Builds the House of the LORD (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Kings 6, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Solomon was the king of Israel. In the fourth year that he was king, Solomon began to build the **house of the LORD**, the temple, a special house for God (1 Kings 6:1). It was big: sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide and thirty cubits high (6:2). That is about as tall as a four-story building! It had a porch in front (6:3) and narrow windows (6:4).

The stones were cut and made ready before they were brought to the building. **Read 1 Kings 6:7 from your Bible:** "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building." Say: "No hammer, no axe! They built God's house quietly."

Solomon covered the walls inside with boards of **cedar**, a beautiful wood. All was cedar inside; there was no stone seen (6:15, 6:18). The cedar was carved with open flowers (6:18). Then Solomon covered the whole house inside with pure **gold** (6:21–22)!

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The story continues: While Solomon was building, God spoke to him. God said that if Solomon would walk in God's ways and keep all His commandments, then God would keep His word (6:11–12). And God made a promise: "I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel" (6:13). **Dwell** means live. **Forsake** means leave alone.

Solomon worked on the house for **seven years** (6:38). At last it was finished! Solomon called all the leaders of Israel together (8:1). The priests carried the **ark of the covenant**, a special chest that held the two tables of stone with God's law, which Moses had put inside (8:3, 8:9). Solomon and all the people were there, and they offered so many sheep and oxen to God that no one could count them (8:5). The priests carried the ark into its place, into the most holy place in the house (8:6).

Then the priests came out, and a **cloud** filled the house of the LORD (8:10). The priests could not even stand to do their work, because the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD (8:11)! God had come to dwell with His people.

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who built the house of the LORD? *(King Solomon, 1 Kings 6:1)*
2. What was not heard while the house was being built? *(A hammer, an axe or any tool of iron, 6:7)*
3. What did Solomon cover the inside of the house with? *(Cedar boards, and then pure gold, 6:15, 6:21)*
4. How many years did it take to build? *(Seven years, 6:38)*
5. What filled the house when the priests came out? *(A cloud; the glory of the LORD, 8:10–11)*

4. Memory verse: Brick Wall (5 minutes)

Write the verse on 5 paper bricks: *And I will dwell / among the children of Israel, / and will not forsake / my people Israel. / 1 Kings 6:13.* Explain the old words: **dwell** means live, the **children of Israel** are God's people, and **forsake** means leave alone. Mix up the bricks. Kids tape them on the wall in order, quietly, like the builders. Read the verse together. Then take one brick down and say it again. Keep taking bricks down until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God wanted to dwell with His people. Then God did something even greater: He came to live among us as a man, Jesus! The Bible says, 'the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us' (John 1:14, KJV). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4). Then God's Spirit lives in us (1 Corinthians 3:16)!"
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.
This week: do your best for God in one thing every day: your chores, your schoolwork, or being kind. Say, "This is for You, God!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Solomon's temple word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/solomons-temple-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/solomons-temple-craft), or **Quiet House:** kids draw the house of the LORD with a porch in front and color it, then color the inside gold. While they draw, ask them to work without a sound, like the builders (1 Kings 6:7).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You want to dwell with Your people. Thank You that You came to us in Jesus. Help us walk in Your ways and give You our best every day. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks what a cubit is: a cubit is about the length from your elbow to your fingertips, about 18 inches. Sixty cubits is about 90 feet.
If a child asks where the temple is now: many years later, enemies burned the house of the LORD (2 Kings 25:9). Today God dwells in His people by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

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