



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Fall Year 3, Lesson 21

King Solomon Builds the Temple

Take Home Point: *God fills us and we worship him.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Kings 6-8

Solomon builds the temple and dedicates it. God's glory fills the temple with smoke as a sign of his presence. God dwells in his believers today through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our temples (bodies) are given to worship him.

Key Verse: Psalms 26:8, "O LORD, I love the house (temple) where you live, the place where your glory dwells."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Solomon building and dedicating the temple.
- God placed his name in the temple as a place where worship would be given him. God places his name upon us in baptism that our lives would be his temple and a place where his glory dwells.
- Worship is experiencing the presence of God.




We will help kids feel:

- Intrigued in the notion that they can meet God in worship and God would dwell in them as his house.
- Awe and respect as they offer their praise and prayers to God.

We will help kids do:

- Become better worshipers.
- Identify ways in which they can worship.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids build a house of cards as they discuss what it would be like to have Jesus come and live in their homes for a week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If Jesus visited my house for the week . . .” photocopied on heavy stock paper and cut into card-size pieces (pages 13-14) • card (the same size as the above) with a cross
Large Group 	4 7 9 11	Overview Carnival Game with Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Creamed” Bible Event Presentation: “A Construction Worker Tells About the Temple” Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Creamed”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • cans of shaving cream • towels or newspaper to protect carpet • towels for kids to wipe hands • construction worker’s hat and tool belt • photocopy a diagram of the temple from your study Bible on an overhead transparency. Otherwise, build temple furniture such as the Ark of the Covenant, altar, or a table of bread • (Optional) incense • (Optional) fog created by dry ice and water or a fog machine • 30-foot x 30-foot area taped off on the floor
Small Group Application 	4	Kids discuss acts of worship as they continue building a house of cards. They learn that their acts of worship are ways of showing how God lives in us, his temple.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Worship Discussion Cards” photocopied on heavy stock paper and cut into card-size pieces (page 14-16)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Today's Bible verse is Psalm 26:8, "O LORD, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells." In the Old Testament, the church was thought of as the temple. It was the place where God would dwell. In the New Testament, we think of the temple of the Holy Spirit as our bodies and lives. God says he now dwells in us.

To open the kids' minds to God's personal involvement in their everyday lives, invite them as a group to build a house of cards. The cards are not playing cards. Rather, use cut outs made from card stock printed with discussion questions of "If Jesus Visited My House" (Page 13-14). Begin the activity with the following introduction:

We know who Jesus is. He is God's Son. He came to this world and lived as a person who helped lots of people. He showed us God's love and was a great friend to those who knew him. The most important thing Jesus did was die on the cross to pay the price for the punishment of sins of the whole world. After three days, he rose from the dead and now rules in heaven where we can pray to him. We know Jesus will come again on the very last day and we will be able to live with him forever.

Let's imagine something. Let's pretend that Jesus was coming to spend a whole week in your house with you, your family, and your friends. Would you be excited to see him? Why or why not? Here are cards with questions that ask you what you would do in certain places of your house if you were there with Jesus. There are no right or wrong answers. It is interesting to imagine what it would be like if Jesus was staying in your house for a week.

I'm going to start building a house of cards with this card. This card will be the floor.

Place the card with the cross on it, face down in the middle of the group. Have each child draw a card from the pile of cards and answer the question. After he/she answers, they can add it to the structure as the group gradually builds a house of cards. Encourage others to answer some of the same questions.

When it is time to go to large group, leave the house of cards standing for small group application. Then say:

Today we will hear about the house of God, the temple, that King Solomon built. We will learn how **God fills us and we worship him.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Carnival Game with Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Creamed”—Gordy picks a game of building the tallest tower with shaving cream. He learns that just as there is too much shaving cream to fit back into the can, God is so big he cannot be limited to a building. In the Old Testament, God dwelt with the people in a temple. Today, God dwells in the hearts and lives of believers and we become God’s holy temple.

Bible Event Presentation: “A Construction Worker Tells About the Temple”—This is a monologue describing the building and dedication of Solomon’s temple as found in 1 Kings 6-8.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Creamed”

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids look up and follow along in their Bibles.

How long did it take to build the temple? (1 Kings 6:37. 7 years.)

There were two big rooms in the temple. What were they called? (1 Kings 6:16. *The Most Holy Place and the Holy Place.*)

What was in the Most Holy Place? (1 Kings 8:6. *The Ark of the Covenant.*)

When the priests dedicated the temple, what happened? (1 Kings 8:10. *The glory of the Lord filled the temple with smoke.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Today we learned that Solomon's temple is no longer standing as a place where God's glory dwells. In what temple does God live today?
(In us—believers in Christ.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Let's look at our house of cards. Could God live in this house?
Would this house be very appropriate for him?

Take responses.

The house of cards might look pretty shabby on the outside and certainly not worthy of being a special place where God resides. But this house reminds us of ourselves. How is it that the God of the whole universe could come and live right in our lives? We are not perfect people, just like this house of cards is not a perfect house.

Let me show you a secret about this house of cards. There is one card that I placed at the very bottom. I'm going to try to grab it even if the other cards fall over. The card has a cross on it.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 says, *"Don't you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you... You were bought for a price."*

What is the price for which our bodies were bought? The price was God's own Son Jesus, who gave his life for us. Jesus said about his body, *"This is a temple and if you tear it down (meaning 'if I am killed'), after three days it will be raised up."*

Jesus knew his body would die, but after three days he would be raised up. He would rise from the dead so we could be forgiven and have Jesus live in our lives. Because of that, Jesus looks at us and says that we are a perfect place for his glory to dwell.

When we were baptized, God placed his name on us. He says that, in a way, we are just like the temple in the Old Testament. God placed his name on that temple so all might know he was with his people. He wants us to know that he is with us and fills our lives because of Jesus. Let's continue building this house as we talk about worship.

Application Activity:

For the application questions, the children will draw from a second set of cards, "Worship Discussion Cards," (see appendix) and answer the questions from their perspective. Afterward, they can add their card to the growing card house.

As they add the the Worship Discussion Cards to the house of cards, explain that their acts of worship are ways of showing how God lives in us, his temple.

After discussing the questions, review the Bible verse Psalm 26:8. *“Oh Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.”*

God wants to fill us with his presence to reveal his glory. Today we learned that **God fills us and we worship him.*

Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer, reminding the children that prayer is a form of worship we give to the Lord. Thank God that, because of Jesus, we are made a place worthy of God's dwelling. Pray prayers asking the Lord to keep our bodies and lives a holy temple of God.

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Large Group Presentation

Gordy Gets Creamed

Puppet Presentation

Mr. King: Hi, boys and girls. Welcome to Kingdom Quest Carnival! I'm Mr. King.

Gordy: And I'm Gordy!

Mr. King: I love this place! In the Bible it says, "*O LORD, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.*" (Psalm 26:8)

Gordy: Wait a minute, Mr. King. I thought this was a carnival.

Mr. King: It is. But today we are learning where God's glory dwells. His glory dwells where we worship him, and we do that here.

Gordy: But it's time for the carnival game!

Mr. King: You're right, Gordy. *To audience:* Today I have asked Gordy to help us with selecting our carnival game. *Back to Gordy:* What do you have for us, Gordy?

Gordy: Just a minute. I'll be right back.

Gordy goes behind stage and comes back with a dab of shaving cream on his nose.

Mr. King: What's with the shaving cream?

Gordy: That's going to be the carnival event. May I have four volunteers, please? One from each grade. (Children come forward. Another option is to call two volunteers, a boy and a girl.) One of you take this can of shaving cream...

Mr. King: Now wait a minute, Gordy.

Gordy: ...and when I say "Go," you decorate your partner's head with a giant hat of shaving cream!

Mr. King: Gordy! I don't think that would be best.

Gordy: Why not?

Mr. King: Kids, what do you think? (Pause for response.) **No. I'm in charge of the rules and we can't have shaving cream in your hair. Let's do this. One person on each team will hold his hands out as a cup. The other person will see how tall they can make a shaving cream tower in the other person's hand. The team with the tallest tower wins.**

NOTE: <i>Make sure you take precautions to protect the carpet from shaving cream.</i>

Mr. King: Kids, you can cheer on the contestants! *To the contestants:* **The contest may now begin.**

Gordy: Wow! Look at all that shaving cream! Oh, the Leaning Tower of Shaving Cream... Wow! She's the queen of the cream... Shaving cream mania. I love it!

Mr. King: **Let's see which has the tallest tower.** (Choose the tallest shaving cream tower.) **Here's our winner.**

Gordy: For your prize, you can take all that shaving cream home with you to play with!

Mr. King: **No, I don't think so.**

Gordy: But what will we do with all of it?

Mr. King: **Let's do this. Let's get all of that shaving cream back into the can.**

Gordy: That's impossible! There's too much shaving cream there. We'll never get it back into the can.

Mr. King: **It doesn't seem like it would fit, does it? Did you know that this is very much like today's lesson?**

Gordy: Putting shaving cream back into a can?

Mr. King: **No, we're talking about building a house for God. God is so big. Do you think you could get all of him to live in a house?**

Gordy: Maybe a *really* big house.

Mr. King: **God's too big to be in a house. Yet, when Solomon built his temple, it was a place where God's glory dwelt. The people knew God was among them.**

Construction Worker Tells About the Temple

Bible Event Presentation

A character with a construction worker's hat and tool belt will present a monologue describing the temple, its building process, and Solomon's dedication. The final learning point in Psalm 26:8 needs to be clear : "O LORD, I love the house (temple) where you live, the place where your glory dwells." God showed his presence in the temple many years ago in the Old Testament. Today God calls us to be his temple and he will show his presence in our lives.

The costumed character would do well to speak the Bible event rather than read it off a script. The following outline, however, will give a general idea of some topics which should be covered. Remember, the better the presenter is prepared, the more concise he or she can be. Be cautious about talking too long!

Some visuals aids will be necessary. A picture of the temple from your study Bible or other Bible resource could be available on an overhead transparency. Otherwise, you may want to build temple furniture such as the Ark of the Covenant, altar, or a table of bread and describe how they were used in worship. Incense might add a nice touch as it was a picture of the prayers of the people rising to God. Also, fog created by dry ice and water or a fog machine would be a wonderful way to show how God's presence and glory filled the temple.

The Building of the Temple

While David was king, he wanted to build a house or temple for God. The temple would be designed just like the tent or tabernacle the people of Israel carried with them through the wilderness. God told David, though, that he would not be the one to build the temple. David was a king of war. His son, who would be a king of peace, would build the temple. David's son's name was Solomon.

Solomon built the temple on the top of a hill in Jerusalem where an angel had appeared to David and he had offered a sacrifice. Solomon built a great temple. First, he had tens of thousands of men work in the distant hills to cut large stones out of the rocks. Some of these stones were so big they were taller than me. It took thousands of men to pull the stones to Jerusalem. The stones were so well cut that they did not need to be hammered or chiseled at all when they arrived. The stones fit together perfectly.

Next, thousands of men cut trees from the cedars of Lebanon. The cedar boards were hauled to the temple. For seven years they worked on the temple until it was finished.

The Design and the Furniture

The temple was a place that reminded the people God's presence dwelt with them. It reminded them of God's agreement to be their God and their responsibility to follow him. The temple was also a place where sacrifices were made to remind everyone that their sins needed a sacrifice.

The Most Holy Place in the temple was a room that was about this size. *(Describe 30-feet x 30-feet to the children. You may want to have it taped off on the floor.)* The Most Holy Place was where the Ark was placed. The Ark of the Covenant reminded people of how God promised to be with them. They pictured God's presence seated there. The whole room was covered with gold as was the Ark of the Covenant.

The next room was separated by a beautiful curtain. It was about this size. *(Give an example of 60-feet x 30-feet.)* In this space, there was an incense altar that burned sweet smelling fragrances. *(Light the incense.)* The incense reminded people that their prayers rose to God as a sweet smelling fragrance. Also in this room were ten tables and ten lamp stands. The tables were made of gold and had bread on them called Showbread or The Bread of God's Presence. It reminded the people of how God provided for them.

Outside the temple was a huge altar where the people sacrificed bulls, goats, and sheep.

The Dedication

When Solomon finally finished the temple and all the people gathered to worship, Solomon sacrificed twenty-two thousand cattle and one hundred twenty thousand sheep. Solomon prayed this prayer:

"Does God really live on earth? If heaven itself, the highest heaven, cannot hold you, then how can this temple that I have built? Nevertheless, my LORD God, please pay attention to my prayer for mercy... May your eyes be on this temple, the place about which you said, 'My name will be there.'" (1 Kings 8:27-29.)

After Solomon had praised God and prayed this prayer, God showed that he was pleased. A great cloud came and filled the holy place of the temple. *(Start dry ice fog machine.)* It was so wonderful that the priests inside had to run out. God's presence was with them.

God's Glory Today

Where is God's temple today? It was destroyed long ago. Does that mean that God has no house to live in here on earth? No. Today he says that his people are his house. We read in 1 Corinthians 3:16, *"Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"*

If you trust Jesus as your Savior, God says that you become his temple and he fills you with his presence. How can God, who is so large, dwell in people like us who are so small? God says that he can, just like he dwelt in the temple of Solomon. Even better today is that he would dwell in our lives.

Finish with the puppet conclusion below.

Gordy Gets Creamed

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Wow, that is way cool how God showed his presence in the temple by filling it with smoke so the people could remember that God was with them. How does he do that today?

Mr. King: **Today God does not have a building as his house. Instead, God has our lives.**

Gordy: Our lives?

Mr. King: **That's right. The big God of the universe says, "I will dwell in your life." Just like we heard the construction worker quote the Bible, "*Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*" (1 Corinthians 3:16.)**

Gordy: But how can God fit in me?

Mr. King: **I don't know. But, because he is God, he can do it.**

Gordy: Is it just like trying to smoosh all that shaving cream back into the can?

Mr. King: **Probably. God can do it. He can take his presence and live in your life. There God will let his glory dwell.**

Gordy: Like when I trust Jesus as my Savior, God lets his glory dwell right in my life?

Mr. King: **That's right. You are a living temple and people can see God's love coming right out of you.**

Gordy: Cool! I'm God's house.

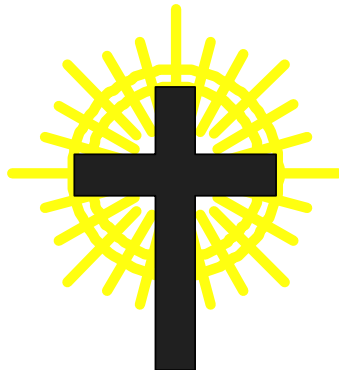
Mr. King: **That's right, Gordy. When you worship today and every day, you are opening your heart to tell God, "I love you." When you do that, he will fill you up and give you his glory. Gordy, will you say the prayer before we dismiss the kids to go back into their small groups?**

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King.

Dear God, you are such a *big* God. Your ways are bigger than our ways and we cannot fully understand you. Thank you for the awesome way you come and dwell in us through the power of Jesus. Help us love others so they may see your glory in us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

If Jesus visited my house for the week . . .

<p>In the kitchen, what meal would you make Jesus and why?</p>	<p>In the TV room, what special TV show or movie would you like to watch with Jesus? Are there any ones you wouldn't?</p>	<p>What do you imagine your whole family talking about at the table with Jesus there?</p> <p>What questions would you like to ask Jesus?</p>
<p>What would you change about your bedroom before you invite Jesus in?</p>	<p>What game would you play with Jesus in the yard?</p>	<p>Imagine there is a special way to show your love for Jesus but you couldn't do it with words. What would you do to show your love for him?</p>

<p>If you were going to take Jesus to a special place along with your friends, where would you go?</p>	<p>What would be the best thing about having Jesus live in your house for a week?</p>	
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Worship Discussion Cards

<p>About you and worship . . .</p> <p>What do you enjoy most about worship?</p>	<p>About you and worship . . .</p> <p>What is your favorite worship song?</p>	<p>About you and worship . . .</p> <p>Have you ever felt God's presence when you were worshiping?</p>
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<p>About you and worship . . .</p> <p>Tell about another time you visited a church that you really liked.</p>	<p>About you worshiping . . .</p> <p>Name three wonderful things God created and tell how wonderful he is.</p>	<p>About you worshiping . . .</p> <p>What has God done to show you how much he loves you? Thank him for that.</p>
<p>About you worshiping . . .</p> <p>Tell three things you like about Jesus.</p>	<p>About you worshiping . . .</p> <p>When you trust Jesus, God's Holy Spirit is with you every day. What do you think is the best thing about that?</p>	<p>About you and worshiping. We worship God with our actions . . .</p> <p>You can worship God in your actions. Tell about a time you helped your brother or sister.</p>

<p>About you and worshiping. We worship God with our actions . . .</p> <p>You can worship God with your actions. Ask God to help you obey your parents <u>gladly</u> as an act of worship.</p>	<p>About you and worshiping. We worship God with our actions . . .</p> <p>You can worship God with your actions. Ask God's help to do what is right the next time someone is being made fun of or left out of a group.</p>	<p>About you and worshiping. We worship God with our actions . . .</p> <p>Ask God to help you talk to someone about Jesus.</p>
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