

# Session 5

## The temple is built

Children learn that Solomon built the temple as God asked.

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 5–9

### Supplies

- Wool or masking tape
- Empty boxes or egg cartons
- Measuring tape
- Prize for the winning group
- Shoe box with pictures of a palm tree, an open flower, a cherub, and other decorations (to build the temple)
- Rope or wool
- Cold glue
- Gold paper or spray paint
- 8 envelopes (with **bold** descriptions inside)
- Copies of the “Fact Wheel”



### Welcome

**Game: Build it:** Divide the children into smaller groups and give them objects like empty boxes (or blocks), egg cartons, chairs, or whatever you have available. Give them one minute to build a tower as high as they can without making any noise. Use the measuring tape to measure the towers. The winning group gets a prize.



### Worship

#### Settle down ritual from Psalm 23

The children sit down with legs crossed and eyes closed. Let the children repeat this phrase 3x with you: “The Lord is with us”. Now say: “Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I am not afraid. He leads me through dark times and cares for me.”



### Word

King Solomon’s father, David, really wanted to build a house for God. For 480 years the Israelites had worshiped God in a tent. The tent was called the tabernacle. David was fighting many battles and couldn’t build the temple. Solomon saw from a young age how his father gathered materials to build the temple. When David died, Solomon remembered the promise that he, Solomon, would build God’s temple. It would also make his father’s dream come true. Solomon knew that it wouldn’t be easy or cheap, because he wanted only the best material to build this temple. He also decided to only use the very best workers.

God himself said how the temple had to be built. Solomon wasn’t allowed to change any of the plans.

### The session continues as follows

Prepare beforehand:

*(Make the temple or make an edible version of it.)*

*Take a shoe box. Cut out pictures of a palm tree, an open flower, and cherub and glue it to the box. Glue rope or wool over the lines on the picture and cover the box in gold paper or spray paint it gold. Cold glue method: Dip the wool/rope in cold glue. Put a see-through plastic layer over the pictures. Trace the pictures with the wool/rope. Let it dry, take it off the plastic carefully and glue it to the box. Round off with spray paint or golden paper.*

*Get enough envelopes and put one of the following **bold sentences** (attached on next page) into each one. Let the children take turns to read it aloud. Give a short description of the meaning. For smaller children, add a picture.*

**Envelope 1: “God said the temple must be 30m long, 10m wide, and 15m high.”** Ten meters is about ten big steps. Demonstrate for the children. Thirty would be three times as long. Now imagine how high the temple was!

**Envelope 2: “God said there can’t be any noise while building the temple.”** Solomon made sure that all the hammering and sawing and any other noisy work was done far away from the temple. Everything was prepared and then quietly brought to the temple to assemble.

**Envelope 3: “God said the main hall must be twenty meters long.”** This part Solomon had to cover with gold. The roof, the walls, and the floor was gold. On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.

**Envelope 4: “God said that the inner sanctuary should be called the Holy of Holies and the ark must be placed there.”** The ark was the chest where the Ten Commandments were kept. On the ark there were two angels who sat forward with their wings facing each other. Solomon also made two angels (5 meters long!) from gold. They were at the back of the Holy of Holies. Their wings were two and a half meters long and the tips of their wings touched.

**Envelope 5: “God said there must be an altar.”** They made a big altar of bronze in front of the temple. This is where they sacrificed animals to the Lord. These sacrifices were an early clue to how Jesus would die for our sins. We don’t sacrifice animals anymore because Jesus died on the cross for us. In Solomon’s time they were still waiting for Jesus.

**Envelope 6: “God said there must be a table for offering bread.”** Special fresh bread must be in the temple every day.

**Envelope 7: “God said that there must be menorahs in the sanctuary.”** Menorahs are special candleholders. There are seven lamps or candles on each menorah.

**Envelope 8: “God said it must be dark in the Holy of Holies.”** There were no windows in the Holy of Holies.

After the temple was built, the priests put the ark in the temple. God filled the temple with a cloud of smoke. Everyone was amazed. This is how God showed them that He was with them. Solomon prayed on behalf of the people to God, and he encouraged the Israelites to visit the temple regularly. In this way they would always be reminded of the Lord’s faithfulness.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder which part of the temple you would like to help build.
2. I wonder how it feels to only work in silence.
3. I wonder how it felt to be in the temple when God filled it with a cloud of smoke.



### Working and Playing

- Solomon’s fact wheel: Use the wheel to ask questions about today’s session. Each child can make their own wheel to take home.
- Let the children use the boxes/blocks from the welcome activity to build one big temple again and decorate it.

**Closing prayer to end the session**

1. "God said the temple must be 30m long, 10m wide, and 15m high."

2. "God said there can't be any noise while building the temple."

3. "God said the main hall must be twenty meters long."

4. "God said that the inner sanctuary should be called the Holy of Holies and the ark must be placed there."

5. "God said there must be an altar."

6. "God said there must be a table for offering bread."

7. "God said that there must be menorahs in the sanctuary."

8. "God said it must be dark in the Holy of Holies."

## The temple that Solomon built



King Solomon surpassed all the  
kings of the world in riches and  
in wisdom.

1 Kings 10:23

