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David Becomes King / Mephibosheth

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 9:1-13

Theme: God's kindness reaches the undeserving

1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Sunday School Lesson Overview: Solomon's Temple , God's House (1 Kings 6-8) Introduction (1 min): Begin with a simple question: "What's the best place you know where God feels especially welcome?" (Let kids share ideas like their home, church, or even a favorite spot outside.) Explain that long ago, God wanted His people to have a special place, His temple, where they could come to worship, pray, and feel close to Him. Today, we'll learn how Solomon built it with God's best (gold, crafts, and care) and why God loves when we treat His presence with respect. Lesson 1: Building with God's Best (1 Kings 6:1-8:11) God gave Solomon clear instructions (like measuring the temple twice for precision!). When they built the temple with care, using precious materials like cedar, gold, and skilled workers, it showed they trusted God. Why? Because God doesn't just need a building; He wants to be in His people's hearts too (see 2 Chronicles 7:14, when the temple was finished, God heard their prayers!). Application: When you decorate your room or help in church, ask: Did I use what's best to honor God? (Even small things like kindness or cleanliness matter!) Discussion: Why Does God Want to Be in Us? (1 Kings 8:10-11) Solomon prayed, "If You're real, show Yourself to Your people!" God answered by filling the temple with light and glory, proof He was there! Today, God wants to dwell inside our hearts (see Ephesians 2:22). That means when you pray, sing, or love others, God hears you! Activity: Have kids imagine God's light in their "heart temple." Draw a circle (like a heart) and ask: Where can you let God shine today? Closing Challenge: God's House in Your Heart (1 Kings 8:18) End with a heart-check: "How can we 'build' God's temple in our lives this week?" (Examples: pray daily, thank others, or serve a neighbor.) Remind them: God doesn't need our buildings, He needs our obedience and love! Close with a song or prayer, then invite them to share one way they'll honor God today. Teacher Tip: Use props (a small box for the temple, gold foil for "gold," or a flashlight for "light") to make it visual. Keep it interactive, ask kids to hold up hands if they've ever prayed at home! Encourage volunteers to ask open-ended questions like "What does God's house mean to you?"

Bible Story

Solomon's Temple: God's House for All to See

Long ago, King David wanted to build a special place where God's people could worship Him. But God told David, "No, my son Solomon, you'll be the one to build it!" So, King Solomon, who was wise and kind, began planning the greatest temple ever made. God gave Solomon instructions, just like a blueprint, to make sure the temple was perfect and beautiful, just like His heart. The builders used gold, wood, and stone, working for twelve long years. Every detail was made with care, because Solomon knew God wanted His people to be happy and safe when they came to worship.

The temple was huge, so big that three cows could fit inside! The walls were covered in beautiful wood carved with pictures of animals, flowers, and stars. Inside, there was a special place called the Most Holy Place, where only the high priest could go to meet God. Outside, there were big wooden doors with golden handles, and the whole place glistened with gold and precious stones. Solomon even made a big table in the temple for the bread God gave to His people as a reminder that He cared for them. "I am here with you," God had said, "and this temple will be a place where my people can come and feel close to me."

One day, Solomon prayed a special prayer before God. "Lord," he said, "you are a kind and loving God. Thank you for giving us this place to worship. Help us to remember you always." Then he filled the temple with music, prayers, and dancing, just like God had told him to. People from all over came to see the temple and feel the presence of God. But Solomon also knew God wanted His people to take care of the temple and keep it holy. He said, "If you follow God, he will keep you safe and happy!"

This story shows us that God wants us to have a special place to worship Him, like the temple was for the people of Israel. He doesn't just want worship; He wants us to pray, thank Him, and love Him every day. Just like Solomon built the temple with care, we can make our own hearts a place where God can live. When we pray, sing, and read the Bible, we're building that sacred space inside ourselves, where God's love can shine bright!

Why This Matters: God's temple wasn't just a building, it was a promise that He was always near His people. Today, we can worship God anywhere, but our hearts should be like the temple: clean, full of faith, and ready to honor Him. How can you make your own heart a place where God's love grows today? Maybe by praying, thanking Him, or sharing His good news with someone else!

Key Verse

2 Samuel 9:7

God Built a Special House for Himself God loves His people so much that He made a special place just for Him to be with them. In the Bible, when Solomon, the king, built the temple in Jerusalem, he said, "I have built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever." This means God wanted a place where He could always be near His children, just like a cozy home where you can rest and feel safe. The temple wasn't just a big stone building, it was a place where people could pray, thank God, and draw close to Him. Just like how a family's house is warm and full of love, God wanted His people to feel His love and presence there. Even though we don't have a temple like that today, God still lives inside our hearts through Jesus. When we pray and love others, we're like little temples where God can rest and be happy! God's Promise to Be Close to Us God didn't just build the temple for the past; He promises that He is always with us today. When Solomon prayed, he was saying, "This is my home forever!" The Bible teaches us that Jesus is like God's personal home for all of us. No matter where we go or what we do, we can always come to Him in prayer, just like a child running to their mom for comfort. The more we trust in God, the more we feel His love in our hearts. How Can We Be Like God's Temple? Since God lives inside us through His Spirit, we can make our hearts a special place for Him to dwell. This means being kind, forgiving, and loving to others, just like God wants. When we help someone, share our toys, or pray for our friends, we're showing God that our hearts are His home! Just like a temple had doors and windows to let light in, we can let God's love shine through our actions. God's temple isn't just a building, it's our hearts and our lives. When we choose to follow Him every day, we make sure He has a place to rest, love, and smile in our world! That's why we should always try to be full of goodness, just like the temple Solomon built was full of hope and light.

Activities

Activity 1:

A fun, interactive game where students pass a "prayer scroll" to share what they learned about God's house, reinforcing teamwork and sharing God's word.

1. Introduce the Lesson (2 min):
2. Begin by reading a short verse from 1 Kings 6:1-2: "When the king finished building the Temple, he prayed, 'Lord, you made this place beautiful and holy.'" Ask: "Why do you think Solomon built God's house this way?" Let them share ideas (e.g., a special place for worship, a gift to God).
3. Draw the Floor Plan (5 min):
4. Give each child a large square of paper to represent the Temple's floor.
5. Have them draw a simple rectangle for the main room (like the Holy Place) and smaller shapes for the outer courtyard (e.g., a path, a fountain, or a gate).
6. Encourage them to use colors to show the different parts (e.g., blue for the water fountain, red for the altar).
7. Decorate & Discuss (3 min):
8. Let them glue on stickers or washi tape to decorate their plans.
9. Ask: "What did Solomon do with the Temple? How can we honor God in our own homes?" (Example: praying, reading the Bible, or serving others.)
10. Wrap-Up (2 min):
11. Have students share one thing they learned (e.g., "The Temple was big because God wanted it to be special!").
12. End with a prayer: "Thank You, God, for places where we can worship You."
2. Activity: "Pass the Prayer Scroll" (Movement & Sharing)
14. Prep the Scrolls (2 min):
15. Have each student write or draw one short sentence about Solomon's Temple (e.g., "Solomon built God's house to worship Him." or "The Temple was special because it was built with love!").
16. Fold the strips into scrolls and tie them with a piece of yarn or string.
17. Introduce the Game (3 min):
18. Explain that this is like a "prayer scroll challenge." Sit in a circle and pass the scrolls gently one at a time. When it's their turn, they will read their sentence aloud while others listen.
19. Play & Share (7 min):
20. Start the circle and pass the scrolls clockwise.
21. After each reading, ask: "What does this remind you of? How can we build God's love in our homes?" (Example: "We can pray together like Solomon did!")
22. Repeat 2, 3 times to keep it moving.
23. Wrap-Up Prayer (3 min):
24. End by holding hands in a circle and praying: "God, help us build spaces where we can worship You and love each other, just like Solomon did for You."
25. Why These Work:
26. Both activities use simple, cheap supplies and group participation, keeping attention focused.
27. They tie to the lesson by making abstract concepts concrete (e.g., drawing plans, passing prayers).
28. Encourage application: "How can we honor God at home?" invites kids to think practically.
29. Would you like adjustments for more or less movement, or a different focus (e.g., art vs. storytelling)?

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for early elementary children (ages 6, 8) about Solomon's Temple and how it connects to God's presence in our lives:
- What Did the Temple Look Like?
- Solomon built the Temple with big, beautiful stones and gold decorations. The Temple wasn't just a building, it was God's special house on Earth! If you had a small house to share with a friend who was kind and important (like God is), how would you make sure it felt special? How could you show that it was important to you?
- Why Did Solomon Want the Temple?
- The Bible says Solomon wanted to put God's name there and worship Him. Before that, people worshipped in tents or wild places. If you wanted to make something very special for your favorite toy or pet, how would you show that it was important? What could you do to make sure it stayed clean, safe, and special?
- What Happened When the Temple Was Finished?
- After the Temple was built, priests went in to worship God, and the people gathered to celebrate! God's presence was there, even though the Temple was made of wood and stone. If you had a special place in your home (like a table, a shelf, or a room), how could you make sure it reminded you to be thankful for God's love? What would you do to keep it a place of joy?
- How Does God's House Help Us Today?
- The Temple was God's first "house," but He still lives with us through His Word, His people, and His Spirit. If you had a small box that held things like a favorite book, a prayer journal, or a picture of your family, how could you use it to remind you to talk to God? What could you write or draw to thank Him for being with you?
- These questions encourage children to explore the story while connecting it to their own experiences and relationships with God. Would you like any adjustments to make them even simpler or more engaging?

Prayer Focus

Prayer for God's House (Solomon's Temple) Dear God, thank you for being the greatest Builder in the whole world! You are the one who makes all things, even the grandest temples, come together with love and care. Just like Solomon worked hard to build a house for you, we pray that you will help us build our hearts and lives to be a place where you feel welcome, just like in the Temple. Help us to listen to you, to love one another, and to be kind to everyone, so we can honor you in our daily lives. Lord, you gave Solomon wisdom to build a house that would remind people of you forever. We pray that your Temple is also a reminder to us, every day, we should be like a sacred space where you live inside us through your Spirit. When we feel tired or distracted, remind us to stop and thank you for being our shelter, our strength, and our home. Help us to share your love with others, just like the Temple shines for all to see. God, we ask you to protect this place (your Temple) and every place where people meet to worship you. Keep us safe and filled with your peace, so that everyone who enters, or even thinks about entering, feels welcome and loved. Help us to be good builders, too, by being kind, honest, and faithful to you every day. Amen. (Teacher can lead this prayer by repeating key phrases like: "Dear God, thank you for being our Builder... Help us to build our hearts... Keep us safe and full of your love...")

>> Missions Spotlight

In many parts of Southeast Asia, temple-building is a central part of religious life. Missioners working among the Khmer people of Cambodia use Solomon's temple story to explain that God no longer lives in buildings made by hands, He lives in the hearts of those who trust in Jesus.

-> To the Cross

Solomon built a beautiful temple for God. But Jesus said, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days' (John 2:19). He was talking about His body. Jesus IS the temple, the place where God and humanity meet. And now, through the Spirit, WE are God's temple.