

# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## The First Temple

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 2 WEEK 4

1

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper (1 sheet)
- Pencil crayons/Kokies/Crayons

2

### LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

What would your ideal church building look like? Let's brainstorm as a family and then draw our ideal church building. List some things that you would add to or inside your ideal church building on the side of your drawing.

When you are finished with this activity, say, "Today we are going to look at the temple that Solomon, David's son, built. It was one of the most beautiful buildings ever built. We are also going to learn more about what God's temple is like today."

3

### LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- 1 Kings 6:11-14
- 1 Kings 6:37-38
- 1 Kings 7:51
- 1 Kings 8:1-13
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

4

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The Ark of the Covenant was a special box made from gold. This is the box that was made during the time of Moses. Inside the ark were the two tablets of stone on which were written the 10 Commandments. Ever since the time of Moses, the Ark of the Covenant had been kept in a special tent – the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was the place where the priests came to offer sacrifices and to worship the Lord. All the people of Israel knew that the Tabernacle was a special place for God. The Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant had been moved from place to place.

King David thought that he would build a beautiful building, or temple, to the Lord. He thought that the Ark of the Covenant should be kept in a building instead of a tent. That way it would stay in one place instead of being moved around. But the Lord did not want David to build the temple. He wanted David's son, Solomon, to build it.

When King David died, Solomon became the new king. King Solomon made lots of plans for the temple and the temple he built was very special. It was made of special stone on the outside and beautiful cedar wood on the inside. The cedar wood walls had beautiful carvings of angels, palm trees and flowers on them (this reminds us of the Garden of Eden). The floor of the temple was made of solid gold.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

There were two main rooms. The biggest room was called the Holy Place and only priests could go in it. There was also a smaller room with gold that was called the Most Holy Place. Only the High Priest could go in the Most Holy Place. Inside this room there were two huge angels carved from olive wood. Their wings stretched from one side of the room to the other. Solomon even had these angel statues covered with gold. All of this beautiful gold and the beautiful carvings would show how wonderful God was. It took thousands of workers seven years to build the temple.

When the temple was finished, Solomon sent for the priests to go and get the Ark of the Covenant and all of the special furniture that had been in the Tabernacle Tent. The priests put the Ark inside the Most Holy Place – inside the new temple. They also placed all of the special furniture inside the temple. There were special lamp stands, a table, an incense altar, and a basin.

When the Ark and special furniture was placed inside the temple, a huge cloud filled the Most Holy Place. The cloud was so thick that the priest could not even see enough to do their jobs. Everyone knew that the presence of the Lord was in the Temple.

Solomon invited all the people to come to the temple for a special dedication. The celebrations for the temple lasted for two weeks. There were many speeches and special prayers. Finally, Solomon told all the people it was time to go home.

After everyone had left, the Lord spoke to Solomon, “I am pleased with the temple you have built for me, Solomon. Just remember one thing. The temple is beautiful, and everyone will think of me when they come here. As long as you and the people obey me and follow my teachings then the temple will be a wonderful place. But if you or the people disobey me, then all of the gold and beautiful carvings will be worth nothing.”

King Solomon promised the Lord that he would always follow him. Solomon understood that it did not matter how beautiful the temple was – if God was not in the temple, then it did not matter how beautiful it was. The temple was nothing without God.

Today (after Jesus came) God’s presence is not inside of a temple or any church or building any more. God’s presence is in the hearts of those who believe in Him – His family. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us that we are now God’s temple – that He lives inside of us. Although we get together in a building (the church) on a Sunday to worship God and learn more about Him, God is inside of us. We don’t come to church on a Sunday and then leave God at church for the rest of the week. God is inside of us every day of the week and we should live the kind of lives that show this to those around us.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- How had God been with His people before the temple?
- Who was the first king who wanted to build a temple?
- Who actually ended up building the temple?
- How long did it take for the temple to be built?
- What was the special box that was placed in the Most Holy Place?

# 6

## LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

- What filled the temple after the priests came out? *(A cloud)*
- What was in the cloud? *(God's presence)*
- Where is God's temple now? *(In the lives of those who believe in Jesus - God's family)*
- Have you asked God to come and live inside of you? Are you part of God's family? *(Parents, take an opportunity to talk to your children about their salvation and pray with them if they are ready to do so)*
- How can we show other's that we are God's temple now - that we have God living inside of us? *(By loving others; by caring for others; by treating others like we would like to be treated; etc.)*

# 7

## LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together:

- Thank God that He no longer lives inside of a building but that because of Jesus, He lives inside of us.
- Pray that God would help you as a family to not treat God like He is still living in the temple (to not act like we come to God at church on a Sunday and then "leave" Him at church until the next Sunday).
- Ask God to help you as a family show those around you that you are a temple - that God is living inside of you.