

# SOLOMON'S PRAYER

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43



**Key Verse:**

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!”

1 Kings 8:27

**The Point:**

The temple was a place to connect with God.

**Making Connections:**

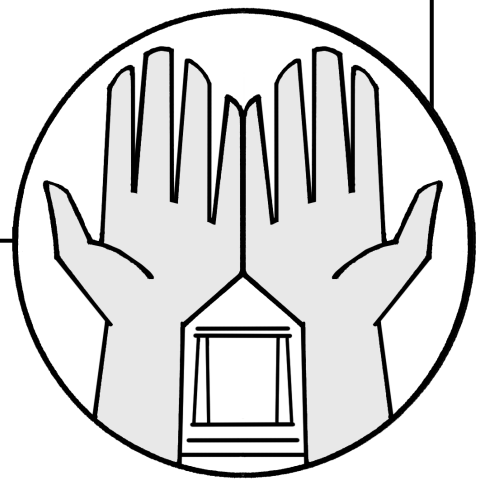
God Provides Blessings

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Divided Kingdom

**Spiritual Practice:**

Service



# BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

## **Making Connections**

Last week, God spoke through Nathan to King David telling him that his descendant will build a temple. King Solomon realized that the temple was one way that God could be present and with the people of Israel, although God could not be physically contained in the temple.

## **Story Summary:**

### ***Solomon's Prayer***

Early in his reign, Solomon decides to continue his father's legacy by building the temple, fulfilling God's promise that David's son would do so. Solomon's prayer takes place after the temple is finished and during the dedication ceremony, where Solomon expressed his hope that all the world will come to know the Lord through the temple.

Solomon acknowledges that God dwells in but is not contained in the temple and asks God to hear the prayers that worshippers, including foreigners who pray to Israel's God, direct toward the temple. The temple acts as a physical focal point for people praying and the heart of the worship of God. Solomon described God as dwelling in the temple, with the Ark of the Covenant the seat of God's throne. The building of the temple is one of the last great acts of a unified Israel under Solomon's reign and represents a standard of Israelite faith and commitment to the God of Israel.

## **The Point:**

**The temple was a place to connect with God.** The temple was one way that God promised to dwell among the Israelites. King Solomon recognized this when he dedicated the temple and said that, while the temple cannot contain God, God is present there and with the people of Israel. Today we continue to connect with God through worship, service, and in community.

## **Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

### ***Divided Kingdom***

After King Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam (922-915 BCE) became king. The ten northern tribes disagreed over his claim to the throne and instead elected their own king, Jeroboam (922-901 BCE). This split the kingdom in two: the northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah. The kings of Israel began to encourage the worship of other gods. Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BCE. Judah lasted 135 years longer than Israel but also fell into idolatry and injustice. It was conquered by Babylonia, beginning the Babylonian exile.

## **Spiritual Practice: Service**

When we serve, we look outside of ourselves, beyond our own problems, and seek to bring value to others. Serving others is a one of the primary themes of the Bible.



# SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



Discover the hidden words.

F	C	C	V	H	W	C	U	J	G	N	K	H	E	Z
A	O	J	U	M	B	F	O	L	O	L	E	P	G	S
I	M	Y	Q	I	B	Y	U	V	L	N	O	W	X	E
T	M	W	E	L	V	E	R	U	E	F	E	R	S	N
H	A	B	W	D	A	V	I	D	Z	N	W	V	Y	I
F	N	T	R	O	L	I	T	B	J	E	A	O	I	N
U	D	R	K	O	E	H	Q	Y	I	K	L	N	O	F
L	M	V	E	I	N	S	Y	G	O	L	D	P	T	Y
N	E	J	A	E	T	Z	H	J	I	E	F	I	E	T
E	N	S	H	A	N	T	E	S	M	N	I	Z	I	E
S	T	I	I	E	Q	B	P	R	J	Y	C	W	D	N
S	S	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T	H	F	X	A	V
Q	T	E	J	K	H	S	R	X	A	R	K	Z	W	X
F	L	O	N	W	T	E	M	P	L	E	A	I	A	N
E	R	S	O	L	O	M	O	N	O	N	P	D	G	G

## Word Bank

SOLOMON

COVENANT

COMMANDMENTS

GOLD

FAITHFULNESS

DAVID

BRONZE

COVENANT

ARK

TEMPLE

TEN

GLORY

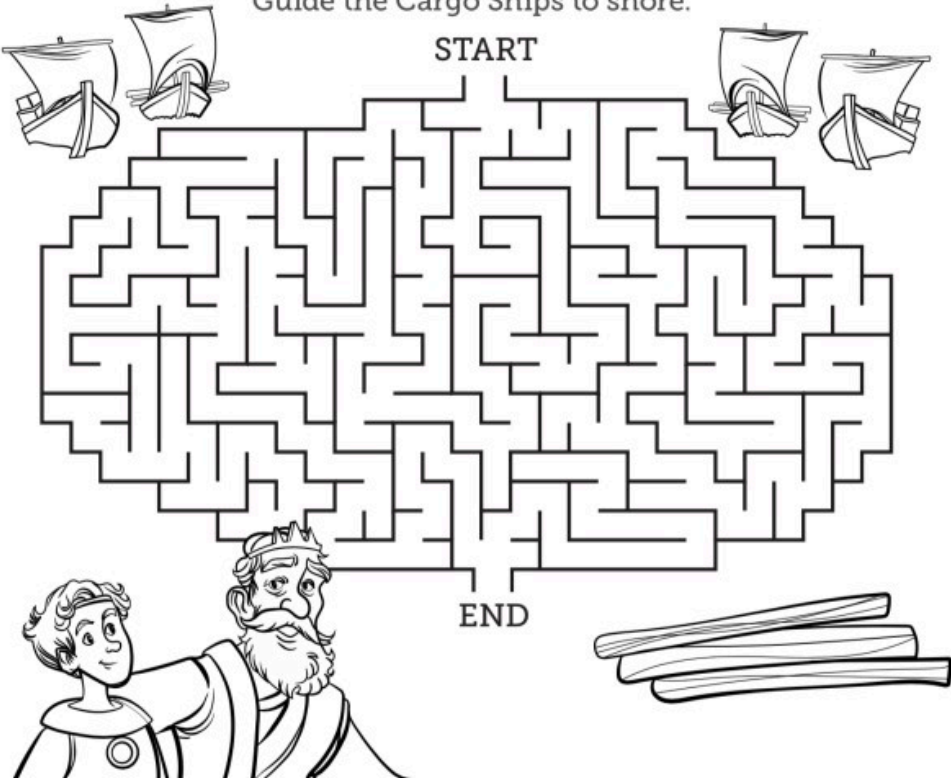


# SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

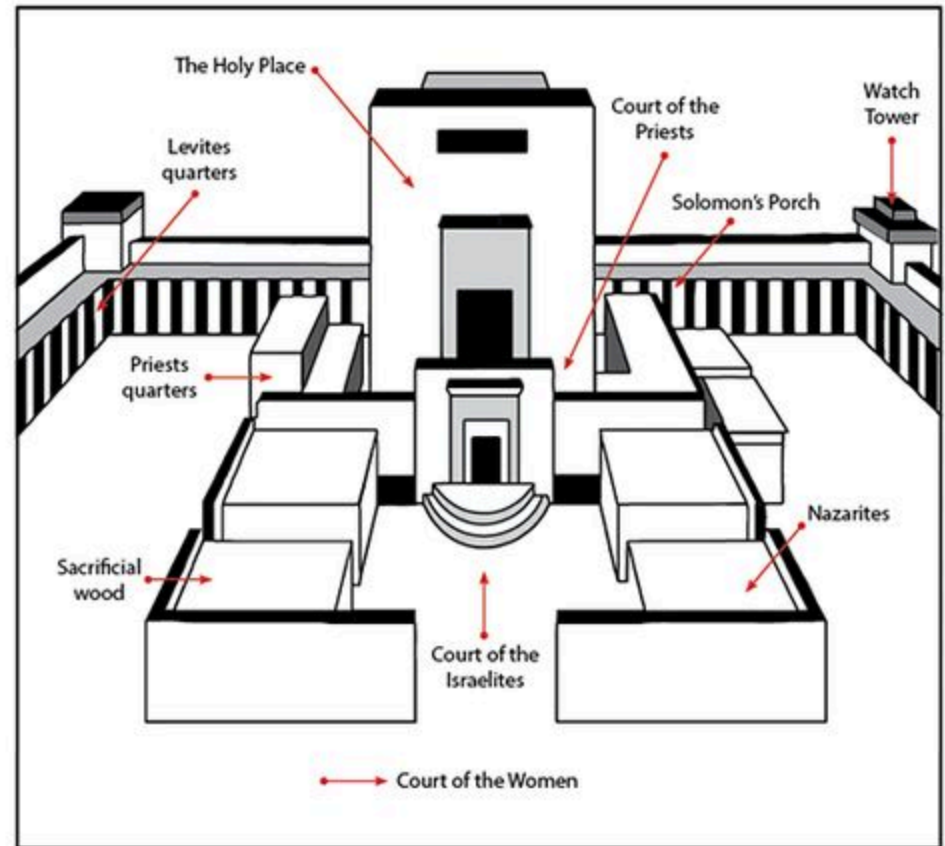
Guide the Cargo Ships to shore.

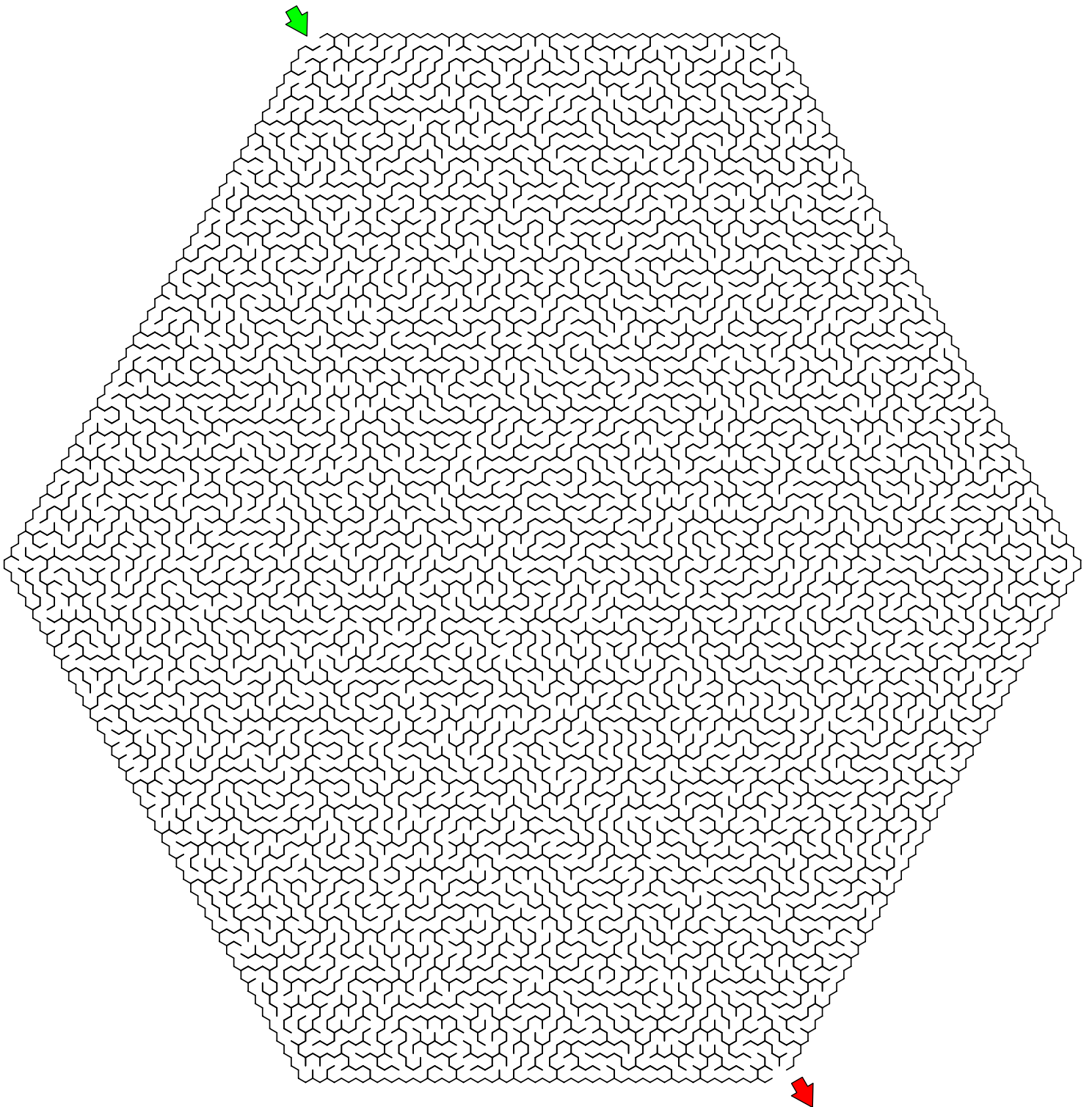
START

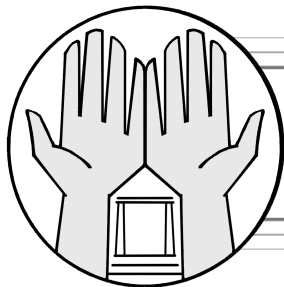
END



"Solomon said, "God has said that He would dwell in a cloud; I have built a magnificent temple for You, a place for You to dwell forever."  
(2 Kings 8:12)







# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**

Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

**Lesson #3-8**

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

## LAST WEEK

Samuel becomes a great leader and anoints David as king of Israel. David does many great things. But, when he wants to build a house for God, God promises that David's house would rule Israel forever (2 Samuel 7:1-17).

## THIS WEEK

Solomon fulfills the prophecy that David's descendant would build a temple for God to dwell within (1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43).

## STORY SUMMARY

### Solomon's Prayer

Solomon's prayer takes place after the temple is finished and during the dedication ceremony. Solomon prayed that all the world will come to know the Lord through the temple. Solomon knew that the temple cannot contain God, but God promised to be present there. He asks God to hear worshippers' prayers, including foreigners who pray to Israel's God, directed toward the temple. The temple was the heart of the worship of God.

## PRACTICE SERVICE

When we serve, we look outside of ourselves, beyond our own problems, and seek to bring good things to others. Serving others is one of the primary themes of the Bible.

## THE POINT

The temple was a place to connect with God.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *Divided Kingdom*

After King Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam became king. The ten northern tribes disagreed over his claim to the throne and instead elected their own king, Jeroboam. This split the kingdom in two: the northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah. The kings of Israel began to encourage the worship of other gods. Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BCE. Judah lasted 135 years longer than Israel but also fell into idolatry and injustice. It was conquered by Babylonia, beginning the Babylonian exile.

## NEXT WEEK

Elijah performed a miracle for a widow in the town of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]).

### Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ What is the importance of peace in this passage?
- ✚ What is the importance of Solomon saying that God will dwell in the temple?
- ✚ What helps spread the message of God beyond buildings and worship?

### Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### Sunday—Read 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

God promises to dwell among God's people. Where do you feel God's presence most strongly? Pray that you may feel God's presence throughout this week.

#### Monday—Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

King Solomon disobeys God, leading to dire consequences. Ask God for forgiveness for the times you disobey, trusting that God loves you even when you do.

#### Tuesday—Read Psalm 72:1-14

A psalm attributed to King Solomon, sharing a prayer for the king. Compose a song, prayer, or poem for your community's leaders, national or local. Consider sharing the prayer on social media or with friends.

#### Wednesday—Read 1 Kings 12:1-15

King Rehoboam was an oppressive ruler and so the Israelites divided into two different kingdoms. Pray for citizens to vote, wisdom for the leaders, and that everyone would work together for the good of all people.

#### Thursday—Read 1 Kings 12:16-24

The split of the Israelites is complete and there are now two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah to the south. Pray for peace and reconciliation for places divided by war—within countries, communities, and families.

#### Friday—Read 1 Kings 16:1-28

An overview of the kings of the northern kingdom, Israel. Has faith been handed down through generations, or are you or your family new to the faith? Say a prayer of thanksgiving for all who have shared their faith with you.

#### Saturday—Read 1 Kings 16:29-33

King Ahab loses his way and worships Baal. Think of a time you got lost (literally or figuratively). Who helped you find your way? How did they help?