

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

God is worthy of our worship.

BIBLE

Solomon Builds The Temple: 2 Chronicles 5:1–14;
James 3:9–12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Whether it's a building, a monument, or something else, the things construction crews build can leave us in awe. This week, we'll hear the story of when Solomon built the temple and people began to worship and give thanks to God. This story reminds us that while we can build awe-inspiring buildings, God is so much bigger than them, and God is worthy of our worship.

Large Group Time

Welcome

Welcome back to *Under Construction*! We've been looking at the story of King Solomon, who has been building up his trust and love for God. Today, we'll be looking at one of his actual building projects.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Construction Materials

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need to hide wood (popsicle sticks), gold (plastic coins), silver (crumpled aluminum foil), and jewels (beaded necklaces or fake jewels) in your ministry space. Consider taping them to the underside of chairs and sticking them inside books, too. Make sure you have a sample of each item so kids know what to look for. To play, have kids work in teams to find one (or however many you'd like) of each item.*
 - Look at all these materials you've gathered: gold, silver, precious jewels, all the different types of materials Solomon used to build a temple to honor God. Not only that, but he brought skilled builders and artisans into the mix. He wanted to make sure only the best were a part of building something so important!

ACTIVITY | Temple Replicas

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need paper cups, plates, playdough, straws, and whatever else you have on hand. You could even include the materials from last week's "Construction Materials" activity (marshmallows and dry spaghetti). To play, give each team of four to five kids a box of those supplies. Give teams five to ten minutes to build their own version of what they think Solomon's temple looked like. You may show an image [like this](#) to have them try to mimic the look.*
- A lot of building projects start with 3-D models or replicas to show what the finished structure will look like. Can you imagine if your replicas were turned into life-sized buildings?
- In this activity, we used some materials that weren't worth much, but Solomon brought in the most expensive and precious materials to make a place he thought was worthy of God.
- **Did you know "worthy" and "worship" are related words?** When we worship, we are turning our attention to someone who has a lot of worth!

POLL | Worth More Or Less?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare ten objects and show them to kids two at a time. Which object do they think is worth less? Why did they make that choice? For the last question, choose an item that's inexpensive but valuable to you. Here are some objects you could use:*
 - *Phone vs. laptop.*
 - *Purse vs. backpack.*
 - *Necklace vs. earrings.*
 - *Cup of coffee vs. bottled water.*
 - *Family photo vs. a ten-dollar bill.*
- There are some very strong opinions when it comes to what is worth more or less. That last one was tricky! The one worth more to me might cost less, but I consider it more worthy because it has meaning to me.
- In today's Bible story, we'll learn why Solomon built a magnificent temple made up of the finest things. The building might have been worth a lot, but we'll learn a little more about what true worth is.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 (Solomon Builds The Temple)

It's another busy, busy day on the construction site! Construction often takes a very long time ... have you heard the saying, "Rome wasn't built in a day?" Well, that's true of most building projects. The same was true of the temple Solomon built for God.

- **How long do you think the temple construction took?** It took seven years!
- The temple was something Solomon's father, David, wanted to build when *he* was king. Even though God was always with them, the people wanted a place to gather and worship. God told David that his son Solomon would be the one to make this project happen!

- That day eventually came. Solomon had thousands of people who helped him and had only the best materials brought in. They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. They laid a strong foundation. Then, the inside was covered in gold. The furnishings were made of bronze, and jewels were everywhere! Finally, the temple was complete.
- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:1.**
 - Solomon's dad, King David, prepared silver, gold, and other furnishings to be placed in the temple to honor God. Because of this, Solomon learned a place to worship God was very valuable to his dad.
 - Even with all the materials ready, there was still a lot of work to do!
- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:4–5.**
 - They brought in the Ark of God.
 - **Does anyone know what the Ark of God is or why it's so important?**
 - The Ark—*"the Ark of the Lord's covenant"*—reminded the people of God's presence. Inside, the priests placed the two tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them and reminded the people God was with them.
 - The Ark was incredibly special and sacred. It was a reminder that God was with them and wanted to know them. They couldn't just place the Ark anywhere in the temple. The Ark entered the temple's inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. Are you ready to see what they do next?
- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:11–13.**
 - It was a big deal! People got dressed in fine linens and their best clothes. They played instruments and sang—they had a place meant for worshipping God!
 - **Why do you think they were doing all this for God?**
 - The people believed the temple was where God could be with them here on earth, where God's presence could be with them. They were so happy that the temple was finished and in their midst!
- **Let's read 2 Chronicles 5:14.**
 - *"The glory of the Lord filled the temple of God."* Even though we know now that God is always with us, they wanted a place to quiet all the noise around them and hear from God.
 - Today, we can worship God anywhere because God is everywhere, but we can also come to church to worship God with others. When we worship together, we see we aren't alone, and we can help each other remember how awesome God is.
- Now get up on your feet and help me cheer for the temple's opening!

BIG IDEA | God is worthy of our worship.

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VIDEO | A Clip Of A Building Dedication

- **Did you know that people today dedicate buildings to God?** Many churches dedicate the building at the start of construction, and many families even dedicate their homes to God.
- **Why do you think people dedicate a building to God?**
- Dedicating a building to God shows that we want to honor God, not only with the building itself but with everything in the building and everything that happens there.

- In the case of Solomon's temple, the people were overjoyed to have a place they could go to meet with God. Nowadays, because of Jesus, we can connect with God anywhere. Of course, gathering in church is an important part of worship, but the Bible tells us that worship can happen anywhere, anytime. It even says our bodies can be temples for God.
 - **Knowing this, how can we dedicate ourselves to God?**
 - We can dedicate ourselves to God in mind, body, and spirit! We can honor God with what we do, think, and say—in every aspect of our lives, we can worship.
 - When we put God first in how we act and think we show that **God is worthy of our worship.**

VIDEO | Under Construction, Episode 3

INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Construction Break!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ring a bell or play an alarm on your phone to pretend you are taking a construction break! Invite kids to sit casually around the room and provide a snack if you'd like! For today's sharing and reflection time, use the [image provided](#) of a "Lane Merging" sign as you talk with kids.*
- It's time for a construction break! We built up our knowledge of God's words today with the story of how Solomon completed the temple and everyone celebrated together. It was a great sign that everyone wanted to honor God in a special way.
- Signs play a big role in a construction zone. Take the "Lane Merging" sign, for example. Depending on the construction job, one of the lanes of the road has to close and merge with the one next to it.
 - **Why do you think it was important for Solomon to "merge" his love for God with building the temple?**
 - **What do the people's responses tell you about how much they valued the temple?**
 - **Why do you think God is worthy of our worship?**
 - **How can we "merge" the way we worship God with how we live our lives?**
 - Solomon wanted to make the place of worship the most beautiful building ever. What would be more beautiful was the worship that people would bring to God there because **God is worthy of our worship**. Not just in a building like Solomon's temple or our church, but all the time.

RESPONSE | Worship Tool Kit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide a copy of the [printable](#) for each kid. On each tool, have kids write or*

draw out different ways they can worship God.

- The people in today's Bible story finally had a permanent place of worship. You and I can worship God in a building too, like at church, but we can also worship God anywhere and in many different ways!
- **What are some ways you can worship God ...**
 - **With your mouth?**
 - **With your ears?**
 - **With your hands?**
 - **With your heart?**
 - **With other people?**
- Write or draw your responses on these construction tools. It's great to have a tool kit of different ways to worship!
- When we learn to worship God in different ways and in different places we show that **God is worthy of our worship.**

Prayer

God, we love to worship you! Remind us to pause in our busy days and worship with our whole lives. You are the most worthy of our attention, love, and worship! Amen.

Small Group Time

Discussion

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS:**
 - **What was the most important thing that was brought into the temple?** *The ark of God.*
 - **What did worship look like in and around the temple?** *Singing, dancing, giving thanks to God.*
 - **How do we know God was pleased with the people's worship?** *God's glory filled the temple.*
 - **Read James 3:10. What do you think "praising God and cursing others from the same mouth" has to do with worship?**
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **What are some ways you love to worship God?**
 - **What are some things that may distract us, or keep our minds away, from worship? What can we do about this?**
 - **Solomon had the temple built as a place to worship God. Are we restricted to just one certain place to worship? Where can we worship or show our love to God?**