Bible Stories for Adults
Solomon Builds the Temple
1 Kings 5 - 11

Opening

Gathering: What purposes in your life distract you from living for God?

Today’s Focus: God blessed Solomon greatly and gave him every opportunity and means to be a faithful leader to Israel. Solomon lived for the blessings only to learn that life is to live for God.

Key Verses: I rejoice with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalms 122:15

When they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sin, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants. 1 Kings 8:35-36

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Solomon’s First Ally (1 Kings 5)

Who was the first world leader to reach out in alliance to Solomon?
1 Kings 5:1

Note: Tyre depended on Israel for open trade routes and for Israel’s agriculture

In what way had Hiram been on friendly terms with David?
2 Samuel 5:11

How did Solomon respond to Hiram’s gesture of goodwill?
1 Kings 5:2-5 (2-6)

Did Hiram agree to Solomon’s proposal?
1 Kings 5:7, 10-12 (7-18)

David’s Temple (2 Samuel 7)

Had David really been prevented from building a temple for God?
2 Samuel 7:1-5 (1-7)

What did God say must happen first?
2 Samuel 7:10-11a

Did this happen under Solomon’s reign?
1 Kings 4:20, 25

God’s Temple (2 Samuel 7:11-16)

How did God turn His rejection of David’s desire to build a temple into a blessing?
2 Samuel 7:11b-16

Who was God speaking about besides Solomon?
Hebrews 1:4-5 (Matthew 3:17)

Was David able to contribute at all towards God’s temple?
1 Chronicles 28:11-12 (1-21)

Why did David bother with such details?
1 Chronicles 22:5

Did David do anything for the temple other than document God’s designs?
1 Chronicles 22:2-4, 14-16
Solomon's Temple *(1 Kings 6)*

- How long had the Israelites worshipped God in a tent?
  
  1 Kings 6:1

- How large did Solomon make the temple?
  
  1 Kings 6:2

- How elaborate was the temple?
  
  1 Kings 6:7, 14-18, 21 (3-38)

Temple Furnishings *(1 Kings 7)*

- What types of furnishings did Solomon provide for the temple?
  
  1 Kings 7:41-45, 48-50 (13-51)

- What did Solomon do after the temple was completed?
  
  1 Kings 8:1, 62-63, 65 (1-9, 62-66)

Purpose of the Temple *(1 Kings 8)*

- How did Solomon describe the purpose of the temple in his prayer of dedication?
  
  1 Kings 8:22-23, 27, 29-30 (12-61)

- Was the temple only for the Jews?
  
  1 Kings 8:41-43, 60

- What did God do after the temple was completed?
  
  1 Kings 8:10-11; 9:3

- What did God want from Solomon even more than the great temple he had just built?
  
  1 Kings 9:4-7 (1-9)

Today’s Temple *(Hebrews 9-10)*

- Who made it possible for everyone to enter the Holy Place and Most Holy Place?
  
  Hebrews 9:6-8, 11-12, 24-26

- When did this happen?
  
  Matthew 27:50-51

- Why don't we offer sacrifices on the altar any more?
  
  Hebrews 10:11-14

- The Sea held 11,500 gallons of water for the priests to wash before entering the Holy Place.
  
- What does the Christian Church have that is similar to the Sea?
  
  Acts 22:16

- What other washing and cleansing is supplied through the church?
  
  Ephesians 5:25-27

- Golden lampstands gave light to the temple. What light do the candles in our church signify?
  
  John 8:12

- What parallel do we have for the bread of God’s Presence placed on the table every Sabbath?
  
  1 Corinthians 10:16

- The ark in the Most Holy Place held the Ten Commandments. Were these abolished by Jesus?
  
  Matthew 5:17-18
Importance of the Temple (*John 4:20-24*)

What happened to the temple and its furnishings nearly 400 years after Solomon dedicated it?
- 2 Kings 24:10-13; 25:9, 13-14
What effect did this have on the Jews?
- Lamentations 2:7, 10-11

How did Jesus further raise the anger of Jews after clearing the temple marketplace?
- John 2:18-22 (Mark 14:58)
How important was the temple to the Jews?
- John 4:20
What lesson did Jesus have regarding the importance of worshipping in the temple?
- John 4:21-24

Solomon's Palace (*1 Kings 7:1-12*)

How long did it take Solomon to build the temple?
- 1 Kings 6:37-38
How long did it take Solomon to build his palace?
- 1 Kings 7:1
How large was the palace and what was it called?
- 1 Kings 7:2 (2-12)

Solomon's Wisdom, Peace, Fame and Wealth (*1 Kings 10*)

How did God bless Solomon besides giving him the privilege of building this great temple?
- 1 Kings 3:10-13
How extensive was Solomon's kingdom?
- 1 Kings 4:21, 24
Was this peace a result of Solomon keeping a low profile?
- 1 Kings 4:29, 34
How did Solomon's wisdom & fame help his call of *Blessed to be a Blessing*?
- 1 Kings 10:8-9, 23-24

How did God use Solomon's wisdom to bless him with wealth?
- 1 Kings 10:25
What was Solomon's annual gold income (besides import taxes & tributes)?
- 1 Kings 10:14-15
How extravagant did things become for Solomon?
- 1 Kings 10:16-21

Solomon's Folly (*Ecclesiastes*)

Did this great wisdom, fame, peace and wealth help Solomon enjoy life to its fullest?
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-4, 9
What did Solomon do to try to make his life meaningful?
- Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:4, 8-11
How did this affect Solomon?
- Ecclesiastes 2:17-20
What did Solomon eventually conclude about how we should approach the lives God has given us?
- Ecclesiastes 5:18-20
- Ecclesiastes 12:13

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Solomon's Provisions (1 Kings 4)

- How many chariots and horses did Solomon get from Egypt?
  1 Kings 10:26
- Besides the trade deficit, what was wrong with this Egyptian horse trading?
  Deuteronomy 17:16
- What provisions did Solomon's government require on a daily basis?
  1 Kings 4:22-23
- How were these extensive provisions supplied?
  1 Kings 4:27-28

Solomon's Burden (1 Kings 9)

- Where did Solomon get the laborers he needed for his building projects?
  1 Kings 9:20-21
- How many laborers did Solomon enlist?
  1 Kings 5:13-18
- Where did Solomon get the foremen and his soldiers?
  1 Kings 9:22-23
- Although they were drafted, why was it important that they were not called slaves?
  Leviticus 25:42
- How did the Israelites feel about the heavy taxation and governmental burdens?
  1 Kings 12:4

Solomon's Downfall (1 Kings 11)

- What command had God given Israel that Solomon completely ignored?
  1 Kings 11:1-2
- Was Solomon led astray by his wives as God had said?
  1 Kings 11:3-8
- How did God decide to punish Solomon for this evil?
  1 Kings 11:9-13

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Does my temple to God reflect His glory?
   (1 Kings 6-7; 8:10-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:18-19; Ephesians 2:21-22)
2. How do I prepare myself to live as God's temple?
   (1 Kings 8; Luke 3:4-6; 12:35-40; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Revelation 19:7-8)
3. Do others see God in me?
   (1 Kings 9:1-9; Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; 1 Peter 2:11-12)
4. What goals do I have for my life?
   (Ecclesiastes; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12-14; Col. 2:1-4; Hebrews 11:13-16, 26; 1 Peter 1:6-9)
5. What purpose does God have for my life?
   (Ecclesiastes 12:13; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 2:10; 3:1-11; 4:1-16)