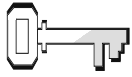


A Beautiful House



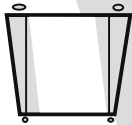
References

1 Kings 5; 6; 7:13-51;
Prophets and Kings, pp. 35, 36



Memory Verse

"How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!"
(Psalm 84:1).

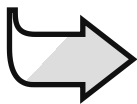


Objectives

The children will:
Know that caring for God's house, their church, is part of worshipping Him.

Feel reverence and respect for God and His house, the church.

Respond by showing respect and reverence in God's house.



The Message

I worship God when I show respect and reverence for His house.

Monthly Theme

We respond to God's goodness by worshipping Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

As discussed with his father, David, and directed by God, Solomon builds a beautiful Temple in which the people may worship God. God gives Solomon specific building directions, and Solomon follows those directions. Thousands of laborers prepare construction materials and create decorations for the Temple. No sounds of hammering or chiseling are heard as the pieces are fit together to build the Temple.

This is a lesson about worship.

Building and maintaining a church today is just as much an act of worship as it was when Solomon built the Temple. The way we worship in our church showing reverence for God and respect for the building itself are also to be acts of worship. This can manifest itself in our personal behavior as well as the decor and maintenance of the building.

Teacher Enrichment

"God would not have His people expend means extravagantly for show or ornament, but He would have them observe neatness, order, taste, and plain beauty in preparing a house for Him in which He is to meet with His people. Those who build a house for God should manifest as much greater interest, care, and taste in its arrangement as the object for which it is prepared is higher and more holy than that for which common dwelling houses are prepared" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 257).

"The house or sanctuary dedicated to God should not be made a common place. Its sacredness should not be confused or mingled with the common everyday feelings or business life. There should be a solemn awe upon the worshipers as they enter the sanctuary, and they should leave behind all common worldly thoughts, for it is the place where God reveals His presence" (*Child Guidance*, p. 543).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Building Blocks</i> B. <i>Materials Mobile</i>	LEGOs or other building blocks wire coat hangers, string or yarn, markers, squares of colored paper, buttons and sequins, glue, scissors, list of items in Solomon's Temple
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container used last week none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible paper, marker, Bible Bibles, various nature "treasures" (see activity), Bible texts on slips of paper
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Respecting Our Church</i>	newsprint or other large paper, marker, pledge cards (see p. 143), pencils/pens
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Reverence and Respect Pledge</i> B. <i>Reverence and Respect Poster</i>	pledge cards (see p. 143), pencils, pens art supplies, poster board or construction paper

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- LEGOs or other building blocks

A. Building Blocks

Form groups of not more than five. Provide building materials and encourage each group to build a church. Allow five minutes.

Debriefing

Call attention to each group's finished building and affirm their work. Ask: **Was it easy or hard to build your church? How could you help build a real church?** Say: **Last week we learned about building the tabernacle, a portable house for God that was set up and taken down as the Israelites traveled through the wilderness. Many years later, after they settled in Canaan, the Israelites built another beautiful house for God. Today we will learn about that house.**

People with many different gifts contributed to that building. Their contributions were an act of worship. We can contribute to worship in our church too. How can we do that? (By not running, shouting, talking, or laughing in the sanctuary or during church service, keeping our church clean, picking up trash, treating furnishings gently, etc.) **That brings me to our message for today:**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I SHOW RESPECT AND REVERENCE FOR HIS HOUSE.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- wire coat hangers
- string or yarn
- markers
- four-inch (10.16-cm) squares of colored paper
- buttons and/or sequins
- glue
- scissors
- list of items in Solomon's Temple

B. Materials Mobile

Form groups of five to seven children. Give each group a wire coat hanger. On a table, place the art supplies and a list of items contributed to Solomon's Temple (picture of a tree [for the Lebanon trees], colored rocks [for the quarry stones], golden chains, angels, palm trees, bronze pillars, bronze crown, a lily, lion, bull, etc.). Ask the children to choose a colored paper square and draw something and decorate it, using ideas from the list. When finished, hang the paper squares with varying lengths of string or yarn from the coat hanger to make a mobile.

Debriefing

Invite the groups to show their mobiles. If possible, hang them from the ceiling. Say: **Last week we learned about building the tabernacle, a portable house for God that was set up and taken down as the Israelites traveled through the wilderness. Many years later, after they settled in Canaan, the Israelites built another beautiful house for God. Today we will learn about that house.**

People with many different gifts contributed to that building. Their contributions were an act of worship. We can contribute to worship in our church too. How can we do that? (By not running, shouting, talking, or laughing in the sanctuary or during church service, keeping our church clean, picking up trash, treating furnishings gently, etc.) **That brings me to our message for today:**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I SHOW RESPECT AND REVERENCE FOR HIS HOUSE.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

"Come Into His Presence" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 14)

"I Was Glad" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 144)

"This Is God's House" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 145)



Mission

Use *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **All around the world groups of people are meeting each Sabbath, but many are not meeting in their own church building. Some may meet in houses or under trees. When we bring our offerings, we can help build church buildings for church members around the world.**

You Need:

- offering container used last week



Prayer

Say: **When we talk to Jesus, it is worship. Jesus loves to have us worship Him by talking to Him. Do you have something special that you want to talk to Him about today?** Suggest a time of silent prayer when children may whisper in prayer, then have an adult close.

Bible Lesson

You Need:
• Bible

Experiencing the Story

Ask the children to listen for the words *build*, *built* or *building* in the story. When they hear those words, they should make fists and pound them together, quietly.

Read or tell the story.

King Solomon sent for a servant. "It's time to begin **building** God's house," he announced when the man arrived. "I've given a lot of thought to this great project. And now I'm ready to start!"

All the Israelites knew about this wonderful plan. King David, Solomon's father, had wanted to **build** a special house for God. But God had told him no, that it would be a job for his son, the next king. Now King David was dead, and Solomon had been king of Israel for four years. And he was finally ready to begin **building** the Temple!

"Send a letter to Hiram, the king of Tyre," Solomon said. He began to say what he wanted to write to Hiram. "You were a great friend of my father, David," Solomon began. "He was not able to **build** a temple to honor the Lord as he wanted to. Now I am planning to do it.

"Please cut tall cedar trees from your mountains. I will send men to help your servants with the work, and I will pay you whatever you ask."

King Hiram was pleased to receive Solomon's letter. He sent back word that he would, indeed, provide lumber for the Temple. He also promised to send Hiram-Abi, a great artist, to help Solomon's workers. Hiram-Abi knew how to work with gold and silver, and bronze and wood. He knew all about stonework and carpentry, and weaving

and dyeing beautiful fabrics.

It took thousands of people to work on the huge Temple. King Solomon sent 30,000 men to King Hiram to help cut down trees and bring them home. Eighty thousand other men went to the hills to cut stone. They quarried the beautiful stone out of the mountainsides and shaped it into **building** blocks. They made the blocks to fit so perfectly that when they were taken to **build** the Temple, they fit together like the pieces of a puzzle. There was no sound of hammers, or axes, or any iron tools at the **building** site. This was one way the workers showed reverence for the Lord.

Solomon's Temple was probably the most beautiful **building** ever **built** on the earth at the time. On the inside, the stone walls were completely covered with wood. The wood was decorated with carvings of angels, palm trees, and flowers. Then it was completely covered with gold! Even the floor and the ceiling were covered in gold!

Artists carved two great angels from olive wood. They overlaid the angels with gold too. The angels were put in the Most Holy Place, where the ark of God would rest, and their lovely wings stretched across the whole room.

All the furniture of the Temple was as beautiful and as carefully made as possible. King Solomon and all the Israelites wanted to honor the Lord in every way. "Who can really **build** the Lord a worthy home?" Solomon asked. "Not even the highest heavens can contain Him!"

Building and taking care of a church are acts of worship for us just as much as they were for Solomon when he **built** his beautiful Temple. And the things we do and say inside our church are also acts of worship. They show our reverence and our respect for God, too.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think of Solomon's Temple? Who made the plans for it? (God) Why didn't the workmen make a lot of noise while building the Temple?** (They were showing respect. God's plans didn't call for any hammering. All the materials had been prepared elsewhere.)

How do you think the people felt when they entered this Temple? (in awe, happy, pleased, respectful, etc.)

How do you feel when you enter our church? (God is here; it's quiet; no special feelings)

How can we show the same kind of respect and reverence for our church that the workmen showed for the Temple they were building? Allow responses.

What is the difference between being quiet and being reverent? Lead discussion. **How can we be reverent in Sabbath School? Reverence is an attitude, a love for Jesus. It can be shown in different ways, depending on where we are and how we are worshiping God.** Read aloud Habakkuk 2:20. **Say the message with me:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN
I SHOW RESPECT AND
REVERENCE FOR HIS HOUSE.**

You Need:

- paper
- marker
- Bible

Memory Verse

In advance, on each of 10 sheets of paper, write one word of the memory verse. Add the reference to the last piece of paper. (**"How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!" Psalm 84:1, NIV.**) Scramble the papers and distribute them to the children. (Large class, form groups of 10; small class, give each

child more than one paper.) Ask the children to line up, holding their papers, in the order that makes most sense to them. Then ask a child who can read to find the text in the Bible and see if the words are in the right order. Repeat until all know the verse.

Bible Study

In advance, throughout your room hide 12 treasures from nature: pine cones, rocks, shells, flowers, leaves, grass, wood, marble, gems, pictures of mountains, rainbows, oceans, sunsets, snow, lakes, rivers, etc. Send the children on a treasure hunt, to find as many treasures as possible. Discuss why each item gathered is a nature treasure. Trade each treasure for a slip of paper with one of the following verses printed on it:

1 Kings 5:6	1 Kings 5:8
1 Kings 5:17	1 Kings 6:18
1 Kings 6:20	1 Kings 6:23
1 Kings 6:29	1 Kings 7:18
1 Kings 7:22	1 Kings 7:23
1 Kings 7:25	1 Kings 7:29

As each child reads a text, discuss the various treasures used to build the Temple. Ask: **How did each help to beautify and make the Temple a more reverent place to worship? Let's say our message again:**



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN
I SHOW RESPECT AND
REVERENCE FOR HIS HOUSE.**

You Need:

- Bibles
- various nature items
- Bible texts written on slips of paper

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- newsprint or other large paper
- marker
- photocopies of pledge (see p. 143)
- pencils/pens

Respecting Our Church

This lesson teaches two important concepts: (1) God's house is to be well cared for and as beautiful as the congregation can make it, and (2) people worshipping in God's house are to be respectful of its furnishings and reverent while there.

Say: **Solomon's beautiful Temple was built according to God's plan. God wants our church to be beautiful too. By making and keeping it attractive we are showing respect for God. Let's look around our room (or church) to see what we might do to make it more attractive. Tell me what you think and I will make a list where everyone can see it.**

Allow response time, make a list, then ask the children to tell what they themselves might do. (Bring a plant, wash the windows, clean the floor, bring pictures for the walls, do yardwork, plant flowers, etc.).

Together, make a plan, determining

reasonable goals and time and cost limits, then follow through within the next two weeks.

Help the children complete a copy of the reproducible pledge on page 143. Encourage them to take the papers home and share them with an adult caregiver, seeking permission and help as needed to carry out their part of the class plan to make your church more attractive.

Debriefing

Do you really think we can help make our church more attractive? (yes, no, maybe, with help, etc.) **What do you think about our plan?** (it's good; we can do it; it will work) **Whom do we need to help us?** (parents, deacons, teachers, other adults) **How do you feel about helping to fulfill our plan?** (I want to; don't want to help; can't help unless someone helps me; etc.)

Help the children remember the message:



**I WORSHIP GOD WHEN
I SHOW RESPECT AND
REVERENCE FOR HIS HOUSE.**

Sharing the Lesson

A. Reverence and Respect Pledge

Encourage the children to think about ways to be more reverent and respectful in church, both preceding, during, and after services. List their ideas where all may see; then ask them to complete a pledge card (see page 143) telling one or two things they will do to show reverence and respect each time they come to church.

Debriefing

Invite the children to tell what they have written on their pledge cards. Affirm each one who shares. Say: **Do you really think you can do what you have written? Who can help us remember these things?** (God, Jesus, parents, teachers) **Take your pledge card home and show it to your family. Tell them what you want to do. Ask them to help you and to pray for you. Let's pray right now and ask God to help us keep our pledges.** Invite the children to pray silently, then add your prayer aloud. When finished, ask the children to say the message with you.



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I SHOW RESPECT AND REVERENCE FOR HIS HOUSE.

You Need:

- pledge photocopies (see p. 143)
- pencils/pens

B. Reverence and Respect Poster

Encourage the children to share their ideas about being reverent and respectful in God's house. Ask them to make a picture or poster telling about one thing they will do to show respect and reverence. Some suggestions:

- Speak softly in God's house.
- Keep our classroom clean.
- Pick up and remove trash.
- Put used paper towels in the wastebasket.
- Handle songbooks carefully.

Debriefing

After allowing sufficient time, invite the children to show their posters. Affirm each one who shares. Ask: **Do you really think we can do these things? Who will help us?** (God, parents, teachers, etc.) **How can we share these messages with others?** Accept all reasonable responses.

Encourage the children to have their posters displayed where others may see them. Ask: **What will you say when others ask about your work?** Encourage the children to talk to others about their ideas. If possible, place the posters on a bulletin board or on a wall in a hallway where church members will see them. Ask: **What is the message we want others to know? Let's say it together.**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I SHOW REVERENCE AND RESPECT FOR HIS HOUSE.

Closing

Say: **Notice how people are acting as you enter the sanctuary of our church today. Is the atmosphere respectful and reverent? When you sit down, think about God actually being with us in our church today.** Close with prayer.

You Need:

- art supplies
- poster board or construction paper

A Beautiful House

References

1 Kings 5; 6; 7:13-51; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 35, 36.

Memory Verse

“How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!” (Psalm 84:1).

The Message

I worship God when I show respect and reverence for His house.

“Come, daughter,” said Vimala’s mother. “We will go to see one of the most beautiful buildings in India, the Taj Mahal.”

The Taj Mahal is beautiful! However, not as beautiful as the house Solomon built for God.

King Solomon sent for a servant. “It’s time to begin building God’s house,” he announced. I’ve given a lot of thought to this great project. And now it’s time to start!”

All the Israelites knew about this wonderful plan. King David, Solomon’s father, had wanted to build a special house for God. But God had told him no. David’s son, the next king, would build the Temple. Now King David was dead, and Solomon had been the king of Israel for four years. And he was finally ready to begin building the Temple!

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would, indeed, provide lumber for the Temple. And he promised to send Hiram-Abi, a great artist, to help Solomon’s workers. Hiram-Abi knew how to work with gold and silver, and bronze and wood. He knew all about stonework and carpentry. He also could teach about weaving and dyeing beautiful fabrics.

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it into blocks. When

taken to the Temple, the blocks fit together like pieces of a puzzle. There was no sound of hammers, or axes, or any iron tools at the building site. This was one way the workers showed reverence for the Lord.

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Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go with your family to a place where there are cedar trees or read about them in a book. Then read your lesson together. Ask your family: Why do you think cedar trees were used in building the Temple?
- Help your family learn your memory verse.
- Sing a praise song, then thank God for the place where you worship on Sabbath.

Sunday

- During family worship today, read your lesson study together.
- Start to make a diorama from a shoebox. (A diorama is a type of model. You use the shoebox as the Temple and add rooms, furniture, etc.) Ask an adult to help you find a picture of Solomon's Temple. Make the rooms. Next week you will add furniture.
- Think about your church. What makes it beautiful? Ask God to help you respect it.

Monday

- During family worship, read 1 Kings 5. What two kinds of wood did Hiram supply? How did Hiram send this wood to Solomon?
- Fill a basin with water. Make some "rafts" out of craft sticks and glue. Float some twigs on the rafts from one part of the basin to another.
- Thank God for builders.
- Put one word of your memory verse on each of 10 pieces of paper. Mix up the papers, then ask your family to put them in the right order. Save the papers for another day.

Tuesday

- For worship today, read 1 Kings 6 with your family. What nature items were carved into wood in the Temple? Circle the following words

that are NOT in the scripture you read: cubits, quarry, hammer, chisel, cedar, maple, Most Holy Place, cement. What words are used in their place? Thank God for tools.

- A cubit is the distance from your elbow to the tip of your finger—about 18 inches on an adult. Measure yourself. How long is your cubit?
- Put your memory verse papers in order and say the verse together.

Wednesday

- During worship today, read 1 Kings 7:13-51 together. How long did it take to build the Temple? Find out what burnished bronze looks like.
- Try building a model church without using nails or glue. What materials could you use? Thank God for the people who built your church.
- Put your memory verse papers in order and say the verse.

Thursday

- For worship today, read 1 Kings 6:2, 14-17. Go to a nearby field or parking lot and measure a space the length of the Temple. Remember, a cubit is about 18 inches (46 centimeters) long. Mark off the length of the Most Holy Place (20 cubits) and the main hall (40 cubits). Compare the Temple's size to your church. Which is bigger?
- Thank God for your church. Tell Him what it means to you and your family.

Friday

- With your family's help, finish the inside of your diorama temple. Read 1 Kings 6:14-22 together. Explain and compare the inside of the Temple to your church. How are they alike? different?
- Sing "We Are the Church, Everyone" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 143), then thank God for your church family.