

SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE**I Kings 5:11-9:9**

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19 "What? **Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have of God, and you are not your own?" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion printed in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: The Holy Spirit is in all believers, so let Him take full control of your life and bless you.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever tried to build something? Like a sand castle or a house with Lincoln Logs or maybe a tree house? What have you tried to build? (Let the children respond.) How long did it take you to build it? In our story today King Solomon built a house. But it was not a house like you and I might build. It was a house for God—a beautiful Temple for God-- and it took him seven years to build it.

HE (for Authority): Our Bible story today will show how Solomon built a special house that he gave to God to be His Temple in the city of Jerusalem. I will also show you how we, who are Christians, also have a very special house to give to God. Our memory verse in 1 Corinthians 6:19 tells about it. It says that the body of every true Christian is a special house, a "temple" of God the Holy Spirit. Of course, we live in this house, too, but the Holy Spirit lives in our bodies with us when we receive Jesus as our Savior. Since the Holy Spirit is God, we ought to give our bodies to Him to do whatever He desires with our bodies. He knows how to make our bodies most useful for His work. And when He fills our bodies and takes full control of them, He will bless us, just like He blessed Solomon's Temple when it was finished and given to Him. That will bring much honor to us when our heavenly Father says to us, "Well done; enter into the kingdom of my Son."

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

I. The Plans of Solomon (5:1 – 7:51)

King Solomon made careful plans for building a Temple for God. As you remember, Solomon was a very wise man. How did Solomon get so wise? (Let the children review last week's lesson briefly.) His father David had wanted to build a house for God, but God would not let him do it, because he was a man of many wars. God wanted a man of peace to build His house. So He told David that his son would build the Temple for Him (5:5). When Solomon made his plans for building the Temple, he asked the King of Tyre to help him with stones and timbers and workers.

It took seven years the workers to build this beautiful Temple. How old are you? (Let the children compare their age with the time it took to build this Temple.) Each stone and every board was perfectly cut and then brought to the place where the Temple was being built. He did it that way, so there would be no sound of a hammer or of an axe or of any other tool at the place where the Temple was being built (6:7). Can you tell why Solomon wanted it so quiet at the Temple? (Maybe it was a way of showing respect for God. Maybe it pictured the silent way that God has created many things. Maybe it should remind us of the silent way that our bodies became temples for God.) Whatever the reason was, Solomon built a beautiful Temple without making any noise from tools in the temple area.

WE: Do you want to give a beautiful temple to the Lord? Your body can be a beautiful temple, if you will ask Jesus to take away the sins in your life. Even after you become a Christian, you need to confess any sins that you accidentally do in your life. If you name the sin that you did and are very sorry for doing it, He will cleanse the inside of your body and the Holy Spirit will be pleased to live in your clean temple.

II. The Presence of God (8:1-11)

After the temple was completed, King Solomon called together all the leaders of Israel. The temple now was to be given to God. The first thing that had to be done was to carry the Ark of the Covenant and the other holy furniture into the new temple. As the priests came with the Ark, Solomon and all the people offered sacrifices to the Lord. Finally, the great moment arrived. The Ark was placed in the Most Holy Place. When the priests had come out of the holy place, something very strange and wonderful happened – the Temple was filled with a cloud, "for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord" (8:10, 11).

God had come to dwell among the Israelites in the Temple that Solomon had built; His presence was shown by the cloud.

WE: We learned from our Bible memory verse that true Christians have the Holy Spirit dwelling in their bodies. Do you know when the Holy Spirit comes to live in the body of a Christian? (When he is saved) Our body is called the temple of the Holy Spirit, because a temple is a place where God lives. Does God, the Holy Spirit, live in your body?

III. The Purpose for the Temple (8:12-53, 62-66)

What was the purpose that Solomon had for building this great Temple for God? Was it to give Him a place to live? We will find the answer if we notice what King Solomon prayed at the dedication of the Temple. He knew that no building on earth was large enough for God to live in. Why, even the heavens above were not large enough to do that (8:27). Why then did Solomon build the Temple? He realized that God was willing to have a special place built on earth in which He would put His name and that it would be a place where His people could come to worship Him and to pray to Him. It would be a house of prayer for all nations (8:43; Mk 11:17). And it was only possible for men to pray to God in this place because it was a place of sacrifice (8:5, 62-66). No one can ever come to God without proper sacrifices. So Solomon built the Temple to be a place of sacrifice, prayer and fellowship with God. Jesus reminded the people in His time that God's temple was to be a house of prayer (Mt 21:13). So then, Solomon asked God to hear the prayers of His people who would come to Him for different reasons (8:30-53).

WE: We must treat our body as a temple of God if we are Christians. It should be used for prayer (Eph 6:18; I Th 5:17). It should bring us into close fellowship with God (I Jn 1:3). He is with us wherever we go (Mt 28:20). It should remind us to present our body as a living sacrifice to God and no longer live for our own desires (Rom 12:1). Is your body being used as a good temple for God?

IV. The Promises of God (8:54-61)

When Solomon finished his prayer, he blessed God because He had kept all of the promises He had made with them (8:56). And since God had kept His promises, Solomon urged the people to be faithful to Him and obey Him (8:57, 58, 61). Then fellowship with God would be a great witness to the world that there is no one like Him (8:59, 60). He is the only true God.

WE: We have confidence that God will keep His promises to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ to save them and make them children of God. We know this because He kept His promises to Israel. Can you think of any promise that God kept for Israel in this story? Can you think of any promise that God has kept for you? He promised to give you peace when He saved you. Do you have peace that He will take care of you while you live on the earth? Do you have peace about going to Heaven? He promised to give His children food to eat. Do you have food to eat? He promised to give you the Holy Spirit to teach you and help you understand the Bible. Has He done that for you? If none of these things have happened to you, it is likely that you are not a true Christian. You need to ask Jesus to save you (Rom 10:13) and if you believe that He heard your prayer, He has saved you and you are a new person (2 Cor 5:17). Things will start to change in your life, so your body will become a holy temple for the Holy Spirit. Be sure you thank Him for this and do your best to obey Him. This will be a great witness to your friends and neighbors. If you live for God, they will see it. You will be happy that you did.

BE (for Action): God listened closely to Solomon's prayer. He knew the king was sincere, but He also knew that all people are weak and sin. Some sin more than others, but all people sin. So He said to Solomon, "If you will walk with Me, I will bless you; but if you do not walk with Me, then I will have to punish you (9:1-9). What should you do when you sin against God? (Confess your sin to Him) How can you become strong and begin to conquer your sins? (Keep in fellowship with the Lord and ask Him to keep you alert to sin and give you His strength to overcome sin.) How can you be sure that God will not be too busy to help you when you need Him? (The Holy Spirit lives inside of you.) Can He help you to win over every sin? (Yes) Can you trust Him to do it? When you win over sin, you will become good friends with God, and He will bless you and make you happy! Will you ask God to help you make your body a beautiful temple for Him? Ask Him to help you to win over sin! Ask Him to help you to pray! Do it today!