

Mosaic

God is great



SERIES

1

SERIES INTRODUCTION

SOLOMON

The example of Solomon shows us how God can, and will, help us know what to do.

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR YOU

We all know the importance of living in a loving relationship with God and trying to do as he wants - but we also know that we often get it wrong. The good news is that we are not left to struggle on our own.

Solomon reminds us of what can happen when we start out by going God's way and then decide to go our own way. The detailed plans for building the Temple may seem slightly over the top to us, but the Temple, like the tent before it, was designed as a visual aid to help people understand the

holiness of God, the need to approach him in the right way and their responsibility to live as he required. Sadly, Solomon, having started out well and with the visual aid of the Temple always in his view, failed to keep going. His love for foreign women and the worship of their gods led to downfall for him and for the kingdom.

Are we trying to live our lives in the strength of the Spirit, or in our own strength? Is our primary concern to love God and do what he wants, or to satisfy our own interests, or please others around us?

For your small group with a wide age range

In this short series, we discover Solomon building the Temple. We use some of the detail in 1 Kings to show that our attitudes matter as much as our actions. Remember that the children's moral sense is still developing, so avoid imposing an adult understanding of how to live God's way.

Resources for ministry

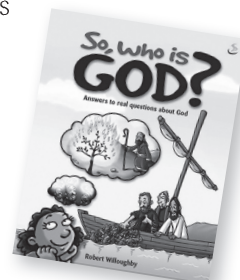
So, Who is God?

So, who is God? Did he make the world? Where did he come from? Does he ever go to bed? Why do bad things happen to good people? This book will help children (and you!) find the answers to these and many other questions. Using the Bible with integrity to point the way to God and helping readers understand what he means to them, this brilliantly illustrated book contains witty but sensitive cartoons and real-life photos. Containing brain-teasers, memory verses and fascinating facts, this is not just another Bible information book. £9.99
ISBN 978 1 84427 123 8

Highlights from *LightLive*

Go to the 'Search *LightLive*' tab at www.lightlive.org and enter this session's Bible reference to find:

- 'Audio Bible story': a regular mp3 download for 3-7s
- 'Learn and remember': a PowerPoint of a Bible verse to learn, for 5-11s (see also page 22)
- 'Presentation': an activity with animation for 11-14s



SERIES 1 SOLOMON

SESSION 1

God moves in



Bible:

1 Kings 5-8

Aim: To realise that how we do things is important to God

CORE PROGRAMME

For 3 to 14s

Bible story game

15 - 20 minutes

Why: to realise that how we do things is important to God

With: a dice or slips of paper numbered 1 to 6, pictures from page 8, Bible text from pages 9 and 10, *SU Bible Timeline* or the *Big Bible Storybook Timeline* (see page 96 for details) (all optional)

1 Set up

If possible, enlarge the pictures on page 8 to A4 size. Set up your room with pictures 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the four corners. Make a large chalk or masking tape outline in the middle of the room, large enough for everyone to stand inside. Make six copies each of pictures 5, 6, 7 and 8, and use these as stepping stones (or use blank sheets of paper if you are not able to make copies). Lay the copies of picture 5 between pictures 1 and 2, copies of picture 6 between pictures 2 and 3, copies of picture 7 between pictures 3 and 4

and copies of picture 8 from picture 4 to the middle of the room. If you have little space, set up the game as a board game on a large table.

2 Remember

Ask the children if they can think of some names of kings in the Bible. Write these on separate sheets of paper and challenge them to put them in order of when the kings ruled. They could use a *Bible Timeline* to help, or use 1 and 2 Kings.

3 First corner

Invite the children to stand at the first corner. Explain that today's story will be part of a game. Read or ask some confident readers to read 1 Kings 5:1-6 from the sheets printed or from a child-friendly Bible. Explain that Solomon knew that how we do things is important to God so he started building the Temple in a way God would like. He got excellent wood and paid the workers a good price.

4 Second corner

Now invite each child (or group of children) to take it in turns to throw the dice (or pick a slip of paper). Encourage them to move towards the next corner the number of places they have thrown (or picked). When everyone has reached the corner (everyone must stop at each corner, even if they have thrown a

higher number), read 1 Kings 5:7-12. Ask the children what Solomon knew was important to God. (*How we do things.*) Ask if they spotted anything Solomon did to make sure the Temple building was as good as it could be for God. (*He made sure the workers had good food.*)

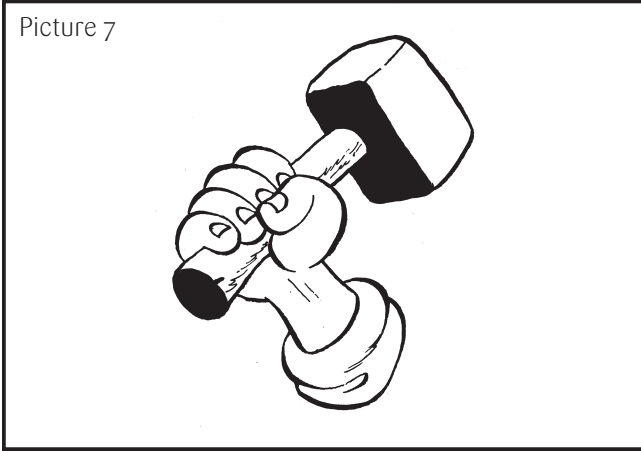
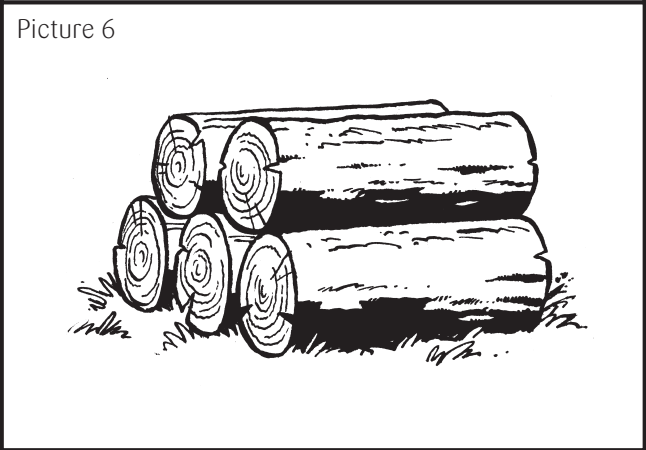
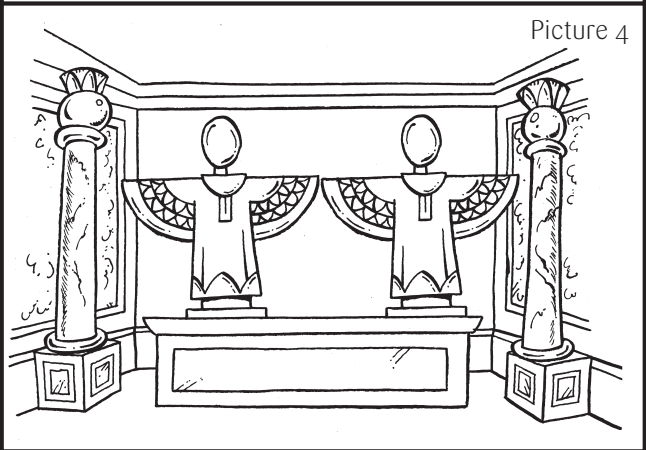
5 Third corner

Roll the dice as before and wait for everyone to arrive at the third corner. Read 1 Kings 6:1,7,9,11-14. Ask the children what Solomon knew was important to God. (*How we do things.*) Ask if they spotted anything Solomon did to make sure the Temple building was as good as it could be for God. (*The stones were prepared at the quarry so there wasn't a lot of noise on the site of the Temple.*)

6 Fourth corner

Roll the dice as before and wait for everyone to arrive at the fourth corner. Read 1 Kings 6:19-22,38. Ask the children what Solomon knew was important to God. (*How we do things.*) Ask if they spotted anything Solomon did to make sure the Temple building was as good as it could be for God. (*He put very expensive and good quality wood in it, and covered it with gold, and he made sure it was done exactly as God had instructed.*)

Pictures for use with Bible story game



Readings 1 for use with **Bible story game****FIRST CORNER**

Read 1 Kings 5:1–6, **then throw the dice to move forward.**

1 King Hiram of Tyre had always been friends with Solomon's father David. When Hiram learned that Solomon was king, he sent some of his officials to meet with Solomon.

2 Solomon sent a message back to Hiram:

3 Remember how my father David wanted to build a temple where the LORD his God could be worshiped? But enemies kept attacking my father's kingdom, and he never had the chance.

4 Now, thanks to the LORD God, there is peace in my kingdom and no trouble or threat of war anywhere.

5 The LORD God promised my father that when his son became king, he would build a temple for worshiping the LORD. So I've decided to do that.

6 I'd like you to have your workers cut down cedar trees in Lebanon for me. I will pay them whatever you say and will even have my workers help them. We both know that your workers are more experienced than anyone else at cutting lumber.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)
Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society

SECOND CORNER

Read 1 Kings 5:7–12, **then throw the dice to move forward.**

7 Hiram was so happy when he heard Solomon's request that he said, "I am grateful that the LORD gave David such a wise son to be king of that great nation!"

8 Then he sent back his answer: I received your message and will give you all the cedar and pine logs you need.

9 My workers will carry them down from Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea. They will tie the logs together and float them along the coast to wherever you want them. Then they will untie the logs, and your workers can take them from there. To pay for the logs, you can provide the grain I need for my household.

10 Hiram gave Solomon all the cedar and pine logs he needed.

11 In return, Solomon gave Hiram about one hundred twenty-five thousand bushels of wheat and about one thousand one hundred gallons of pure olive oil each year.

12 The LORD kept his promise and made Solomon wise. Hiram and Solomon signed a treaty and never went to war against each other.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)
Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society

THIRD CORNER

Read 1 Kings 6:1,7,9,11–14, **then throw the dice to move forward.**

1 Solomon's workers started building the temple during Ziv, the second month of the year. It had been four years since Solomon became king of Israel, and four hundred eighty years since the people of Israel left Egypt.

7 Solomon did not want the noise of hammers and axes to be heard at the place where the temple was being built. So he had the workers shape the blocks of stone at the quarry.

9 The roof of the temple was made out of beams and cedar boards. The workers finished building the outside of the temple.

11 The LORD told Solomon:

12 If you obey my commands and do what I say, I will keep the promise I made to your father David.

13 I will live among my people Israel in this temple you are building, and I will not desert them.

14 So Solomon's workers finished building the temple.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)
Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society



Readings 2 for use with **Bible story game**

FOURTH CORNER

Read 1 Kings 6:19–22,38,
**then throw the dice to
move forward.**

19 The sacred chest was kept
in the most holy place.

20–22 This room was thirty
feet long, thirty feet wide,
and thirty feet high, and it
was lined with pure gold.
There were also gold chains
across the front of the most
holy place. The inside of the
temple, as well as the cedar
altar in the most holy place,
was covered with gold.

38 Seven years later the
workers finished building
it during Bul, the eighth
month of the year. It was
built exactly as it had been
planned.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)
Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society

**CENTRE OF THE
ROOM**

Read 1 Kings 8:1–4,10–13.

1,2 The sacred chest had
been kept on Mount Zion,
also known as the city of
David. But Solomon decided
to have the chest moved to
the temple while everyone
was in Jerusalem, celebrating
the Festival of Shelters
during Ethanim, the seventh
month of the year. Solomon
called together the important
leaders of Israel.

3,4 Then the priests and the
Levites carried to the temple
the sacred chest, the sacred
tent, and the objects used
for worship.

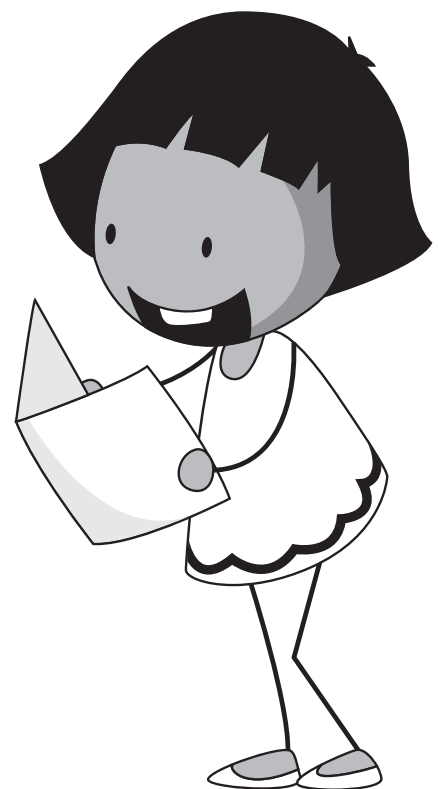
10 Suddenly a cloud filled
the temple as the priests
were leaving the most holy
place.

11 The LORD’s glory was in
the cloud, and the light from
it was so bright that the
priests could not stay inside
to do their work.

12 Then Solomon prayed:
“Our LORD, you said that you
would live in a dark cloud.

13 Now I have built a
glorious temple where you
can live forever.”

Contemporary English Version (CEV)
Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society



CORE PROGRAMME CONTINUED

7 Into the centre

Roll the dice as before and wait for everyone to arrive in the middle of the room. Read 1 Kings 8:1-4,10-13. Ask the children what Solomon knew was important to God. (*How we do things.*) Ask if they spotted anything Solomon did to make sure the Temple building was as good as it could be for God. (*He included everyone in celebrating its completion, and had the priests take the special sacred chest into the Most Holy Place.*) Challenge the children to tell you what happened and whether or not they think God was pleased with the way Solomon had built the temple. Why?

Imaginative prayer**5 minutes**

Why: to think about God being present with us

- 1** Ask the children to stand in a small circle so that they are almost touching one another.
- 2** Tell them to imagine that God is standing in the centre of the circle.
- 3** Ask the children to move out to make space for God in the middle of them.
- 4** Say that God is awesome – he created the whole world and everything in it! Encourage each child to think of something God has done that shows his power.
- 5** This awesome God wants to be with us! Ask the children to kneel and privately ask God to help them remember that he is always with them.

Acting**10 minutes**

Why: to explore doing things with a good or bad attitude

- 1** Invite the children to form pairs. Whisper to each pair an action to act out, with one child doing it in a way that would please God, the other in a way that wouldn't. Possible actions could be:
 - to tidy your room when you want to be playing;
 - to show a new child at school where the toilets are;
 - share out the toys with everyone;
 - get ready for school;
 - get into the car;
 - read the Bible;
 - get ready for bed.
- 2** Encourage each pair to 'perform' their actions. Invite the others to guess what they are doing. Challenge them to say who is doing it in a way that pleases God. Help the children find words to describe the attitudes shown, such as selfish, caring, patient, loving and unkind.

Architects**10 minutes**

Why: to consider the complexity of Solomon's task

With: art materials

- 1** Invite the children to create pictures of a building to use for worshipping God. Encourage them to 'think big' and come up with extravagant designs.
- 2** Admire the finished pictures and then talk about the practicalities: How would they go about building one of these places? Where would they start? What would they need? Realise that it could be complex and difficult!
- 3** Explain that you will be discovering what it takes to build a Temple as you find out about one of the big tasks God had for King Solomon to do.

EXTENSION IDEAS**Activities for younger children****Mime with instructions****5 minutes**

Why: to experience following instructions to build the Temple
With: scroll picture from page 13, Bible

- 1** Show the children all the instructions in the Bible that God gave Solomon to build the Temple (1 Kings 5-8).
- 2** Explain to the children that you are going to see if they can follow your instructions to mime building a Temple. Ask them all to stand in a space to begin their mime.
- 3** Read 'How to build a Temple for God' from page 13. Pause after each point, allowing the children to mime the activity. If they are struggling with their mime, demonstrate examples to help them.
- 4** When the children have built the Temple, remind them that Solomon followed God's instructions to build the wonderful Temple for God. And they have just followed your instructions!
- 5** Emphasise that God guided Solomon and showed him what to do. God also wants to guide us and show us what it is best to do.

Bible story picture

⑤ - ⑩ minutes

Why: to see how God plans, guides and directs what we think and do

With: a copy of the picture on page 14 (printed on A4 paper) for each child or enlarged copies for group use, art and craft materials

- 1 You can use the picture as an introduction to the Bible story or to help you review the story together.
- 2 Say that, when Solomon started to build the special building for God, he didn't want it to be messy and noisy! He wanted everything to be peaceful and quiet – no shouting or loud hammering.
- 3 Look at the picture together and describe what you can see – but remember to speak quietly and not make a lot of noise! Can the children find Solomon? What is he doing? Chat about how well the building is going: do the children think there is much more to do?
- 4 Allow time for the children to colour their own pictures or work together on an enlarged group scene. Work quietly and carefully, whispering to pass the crayons or comment on what you are doing.
- 5 Say that, next time, you will be finding out about a very noisy day at the new Temple.

For older children

Creative worship

⑳ - ㉕ minutes

Why: to give our best to God

With: business-card-sized pieces of card, pens, Bibles

- 1 Explain that in Romans 12:1,2 it describes worship as service – offering yourself as a living sacrifice. This is because there are two New Testament words for worship, one to do with a special act of reverence and one to do with living day-to-day.
 - 2 Discuss with the young people:
 - What is the best you have? A special thing? A special skill?
 - How might you worship God with it or incorporate it into worship?

If the skill or possession does not easily fit into an act of worship, ask how the young person might remember to acknowledge God each time they use it or it is seen. How can they remember God with their football skill, culinary expertise or child-minding technique?

- 3 Give everyone a business-card-sized piece of card and encourage them to write the words of Romans 12:1,2 on one side. On the reverse, ask them to write the following: 'My special skill/thing is...' followed by 'I will offer this to you, Lord.'
- 4 Encourage them to decorate the cards and take them home as bookmarks.

THE LEARN AND REMEMBER VERSE

'Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the world.'

Isaiah 6:3

Ask the children what they think the word 'holy' means. Say the verse together, starting off crouched down and gradually standing up and stretching out arms.

Find a poster for this Learn and remember verse on page 22.

You could also use the song 'Holy', on the *Bitesize Bible Songs 2* CD, available from Scripture Union.

Scroll for use with **Mime with instructions**

How to build a Temple for God

1. Write a letter to ask for wood for the Temple.
2. Chop down trees for the wood for the Temple.
3. Send the wood to Solomon for the Temple.
4. Find strong men to cut out stone for the Temple.
5. Cut out stone to build the Temple.
6. Build a Temple for God.

Use with **Bible story picture**
Solomon builds for God 1 Kings 5:1 – 6:1

