



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

HOOK

HOOK: I wish I may, I wish I might ...

Imagine one day you were walking on a beach. And you accidentally kicked something hard. You looked down, and you see an old-fashioned gold lamp! Wow!

What would you do with it? Maybe we should rub it and see if anything happens ... 1, 2, 3 Rub!

Whoosh! It's a great big green genie! *"Hello boys and girls! Thank you for setting me free from the lamp! As a reward, I'll give you one wish! Whatever it is that you want ... ask and I shall grant you your wish!"*

Wow! A wish! Whatever you want!

What would you wish for children? What's the one thing you want the most?

<get kids to give their answers>

Well, in real life, there's no such thing as a genie in a bottle. But in the Bible, there's somebody who was asked by God about what his wish was. That somebody was King Solomon. Let's find out more.



STORY: SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM (1 Kings 3)

King David had a son, Solomon, who would be Israel's next king. God loved him very much. (2 Sam 12:24).

Before King David died, he instructed Solomon what he should do as king.

"And you my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever." (1 Chronicles 28:9)

After King David died, his son Solomon became king over Israel. *"Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the statues of his father David..."* (1 Kings 3:3a)

One night, Solomon offered 1,000 offerings to God at a place called Gibeon. As he was sleeping, God came to Solomon and spoke to him in a dream. *"Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*

Wow! Solomon could ask for ANYTHING he wanted. What would you ask for if God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

If you were a king, wouldn't you wish for great wealth? Long life? Many palaces? Or territories? For all your enemies to be gone?

Solomon praised God for His kindness to his father, David, and to him.

Then he said, *"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"*

What did Solomon ask God for? He asked for wisdom! As a young king, he knew that he could not rule a great nation like Israel by himself, no matter how clever he may be. He needed God's wisdom.

God was pleased because Solomon knew that in order to be the kind of king that could lead God's people he could only do it with God's wisdom. "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be."

But on top of the wisdom, God promised, "I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."



Can you believe that? Not only would God make Solomon the wisest king ever, He was going to give him lots of wealth and honour too!

WISDOM IN JUDGMENT

Now Solomon had to deal with many cases and issues in his country.

One day, two women/prostitutes came to the king. They had a problem.

Both of them lived alone in the same house, and they each had a baby, born 3 days apart.

One of the women told Solomon, *"During the night, this woman's son died because she lay on him. So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't my son."*

The other woman said, *"No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours."*

But the first one insisted, *"No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine."* And so they argued before the king.

Oh dear. What should Solomon do? He definitely needed God's wisdom on this problem.

Then the king said, *"Bring me a sword."* So they brought a sword for the king. He then gave an order: *"Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."*

Was Solomon crazy?!? But then, let's see what happens:

The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, *"Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"*

But the other said, *"Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"*

Then the king gave his ruling: *"Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."*

When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.



LESSON: SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

JESUS IS OUR WISDOM

Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to Him. He became the wisest man that ever lived. But Solomon is dead.

And a thousand years later, the Bible tells us that one greater than Solomon is here! (Luke 11:31) Who's this King who is greater than Solomon? Who's this King who is wiser, and richer and more honoured than Solomon? It's Jesus!

You and I would most likely never be a king as Solomon was. And we may not think we are very wise. However, all of us who believe in Jesus have God's wisdom in us already!

In 1 Cor 1:30, the Bible tells us that even though we may not be great or wise or of noble birth, we belong to Jesus, who is our wisdom from God.

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Whatever situation we may be in, whatever decisions we need to make, we can depend on this wisdom that we have in us, because Jesus lives in us forever!

WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE KING (for older kids)

The two mothers who came to Solomon were prostitutes. They were not very honourable women. They had many boyfriends. Society would look down on them.

Yet somehow, they were able to access the King of Israel!

Jesus came to die for all sorts of people — good people, bad people, people with a past etc. And when we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we have free access to Him always! (Heb 10:19)

How many of you know Jesus? How many of you have Jesus in your heart? If you do, know that He is your wisdom. He will help you in whatever problems you may face. You can go to Him anytime, any place, and He will help you.

If you do not know Jesus yet, but you want to invite Him into your heart, you can ask Him today!

Let's pray together: *Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for me and forgiving me of my sins. Thank you for giving me Your life and living in my heart forever. Thank you that You are my wisdom always, and I can always come to You for everything I need. In Your name, I pray, Amen!*



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SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Acts 2:44 *And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.*

ACT IT OUT

Get kids to act out the scene between Solomon and the 2 mothers.

You'd need: Solomon, 2 mothers, a baby (doll), 2 guards

SHARE & PRAY

What is one challenge or situation when you need God's wisdom to help you? Share and pray for one another.



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SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE

HOOK

ICE-BREAKER: Temple Relay

Prepare some blocks or Lego pieces. Show a picture of a temple built from blocks. Divide kids into two teams and let them take turns putting 1 block each to create the finish product.





STORY: SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE (1 Kings 5-9)

King David wanted to build a physical temple for God. But God said his son, Solomon, would build it. So David could only make all the preparations for it, and he set aside all the wood, gold, silver, stone and treasures for the building.

After four peaceful years of reign as king, Solomon decided to start building the temple of God, as his father, David, had prepared him for.

“You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, ‘Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.’” (1 Kings 5:3-5)

It took them seven years to complete the amazing temple. Solomon listened to God and built it exactly like God wanted.



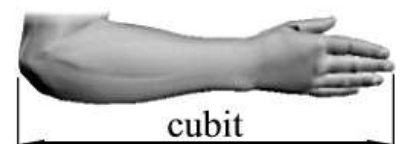
GOD'S SPECIFICATIONS

(gloss over generally and adjust according to age group — the idea is to show how detailed God was in designing the temple)

Virtual tour of temple: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFnWTz-7IOE&feature=related>

Temple's Dimensions

- cubit = about 18 inches; although some Bible scholars believe Solomon's "cubit" was longer, i.e. 20 inches
- About twice the size of the tabernacle (where the Ark of God was residing)
- Length: 60 cubits
Width: 20 cubits
Height: 30 cubits



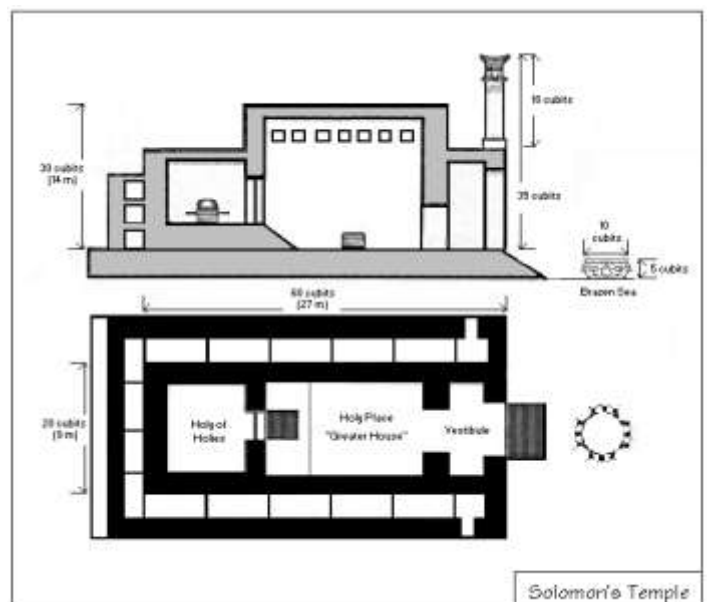


Temple's Materials

- Only the finest woods and materials were used
- The best craftsmen, artists, bronze-smiths and sculptors; hundreds of thousands of labourers
- Cedars of Lebanon
 - Solomon made a treaty with Hiram, king of Tyre, to buy the best timber (1 Kings 5)
 - Lined the inside of temple — no stone was seen
- Stone blocks
 - Stones were cut at the quarry; shaped so perfectly that they slotted together without being banged into place
 - No hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.
- Gold
 - The interior and altar of the Holy of Holies were overlaid with pure gold
 - The wooden doors were covered in gold
 - Gold furnishings: table of bread, 10 lampstands, flowers, lamps, tongs, 100 bowls etc (1 Kings 7:48-50)
- Bronze
 - By a wise and skilful master craftsman named Hiram
 - Hiram cast two bronze columns/pillars for the entrance of the temple; the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the columns, with its decorative features (400 bronze pomegranates); 10 lavers — stands with basins; a Bronze Sea (a large round tank supported by 12 bronze bulls); as well as pots, shovels, sprinkling bowls etc

Temple's Layout

- The temple was rectangular and had 3 main areas or rooms (similar to Moses' tabernacle):
 - The porch (vestibule)
 - The Holy Place: where the priests and worship leaders could enter to worship God
 - The Inner Sanctuary ("Holy of Holies"): the place God "lived"
 - Only the High Priest could enter once a year (on the Day of Atonement)





Temple's Dedication

- After the temple was built, Solomon asked the priests to come to dedicate the temple to God.
- The priests brought the special box called the Ark of the Covenant, which represented God's presence/throne.
- When the box was placed in the Holy of Holies, a big cloud filled the temple and the people knew the Lord was very close to them.
- Solomon rejoiced that God's presence was there. They praised the Lord and thanked Him for keeping His promise to His people.
- Solomon knelt before the altar and prayed to God. *"God, thank You that I was able to build this temple for You. Thank You that my father David planned it. But even this temple is not good enough. No place is big or high enough for You. You made the earth and the sky. Please, Lord, let this temple be a place where we can always find You."* (1 Kings 8)
- After Solomon prayed, fire from heaven came down and burnt the offerings and sacrifices, and God's glory filled the temple. (2 Chron 7)
- The people who saw this praised God, "He is good; his love endures forever."
- Solomon then sacrificed an enormous fellowship offering — 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep (that's a LOT of cows and sheep!!), as well as burnt, grain offerings. The Israelites celebrated the temple's dedication for 14 days before heading back home.
- Afterwards God appeared to Solomon. He said. *"If you do what I tell you, I will live in this temple. I will listen to the prayers of the people who come into this place."*



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SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE

LESSON: WE ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Solomon's temple was very grand and beautiful. It had the best of every material, built by the most skilled craftsman.

Solomon built the temple as a house for God, even though He knew God could not be contained by a building (Isa 66:1-2). But the temple was a place that represented the presence of God in Israel and where God's people could come to pray to Him and receive forgiveness of their sins

Even then, the Israelites could only worship in the outer courts of the temple. Back in Solomon's time, God was separated from His people because He was holy and man was sinful. The people would bring their offerings/sacrifice/requests to the priests, who would then take the offerings/sacrifices/requests to God.

But when Jesus died on the cross, His blood washed away our sin and brought us near to God. We can now approach God boldly and confidently. (Heb 10:19-22)

LIVING GOD'S PRESENCE

But do you know what's even better? God's Spirit, which filled Solomon's temple, now lives in us ... forever. When we believe in Jesus, WE have the privilege of being His temple. Our bodies are His temple. His Holy Spirit comes and lives in us forever.

As grand and glorious Solomon's temple was, our bodies are even grander and more glorious — God's spirit did leave Solomon's temple eventually when the temple was destroyed, but God's spirit lives in us forever and ever!



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SOLOMON BUILDS A TEMPLE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

1 Cor 3: 16 *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"*

Use activity/game to get kids to remember memory verse.



REVIEW

Last week, we learnt about how King Solomon built a temple to God.

It was built:

- with the best materials and by the best craftsmen
- as God's house where God's people could come to pray and receive forgiveness of their sins

We also learned that the temple was temporary ... a picture of who us today — **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that God lives in us forever!**



Do you remember the layout of the temple?

There were 3 sections — the porch (vestibule), the Holy Place (where the priests and worship leaders could enter to worship God), and the Inner Sanctuary ("Holy of Holies"): the place God "lived"

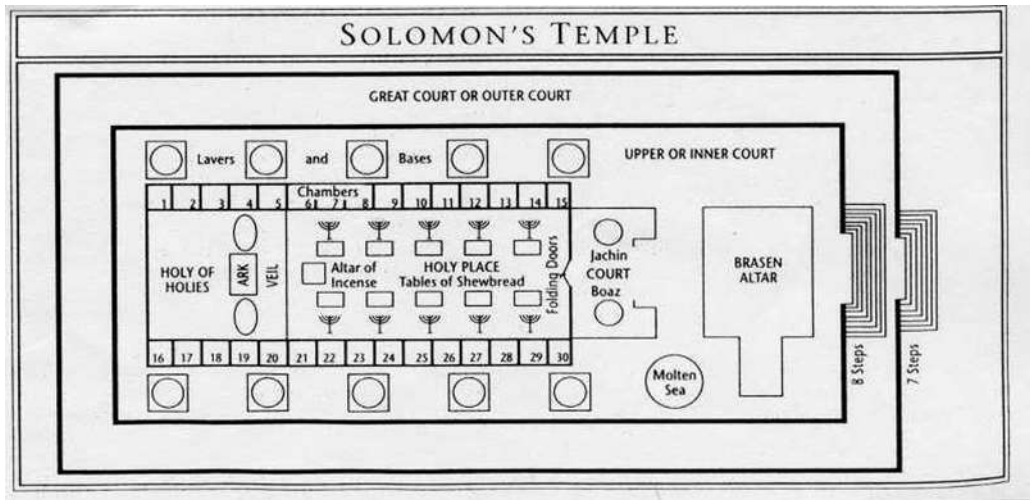
The layout and furnishing of Solomon's temple is similar as the tent that the Israelites used to worship God in since they came out of Egypt. (Exodus 25-27), except that the temple was about double the size of the tabernacle, and some of the furnishing were multiplied (10x).

Everything about the temple — layout and furnishings — are made according to perfect specifications because it serves as "a copy and shadow of what is in heaven". (Heb 8:5)

Let's look at some of the furnishing in the temple, and how they are a copy and shadow of Jesus and His finished work on the cross.



LESSON: TEMPLE FURNISHING (1 Kings 5-9)



LAYOUT OF TEMPLE FURNISHING

A. Outside of the temple: [this week's lesson]

- Altar of Burnt Offering/Brazen altar
- Bronze basin (laver/sea)
- 10 basins (lavers)

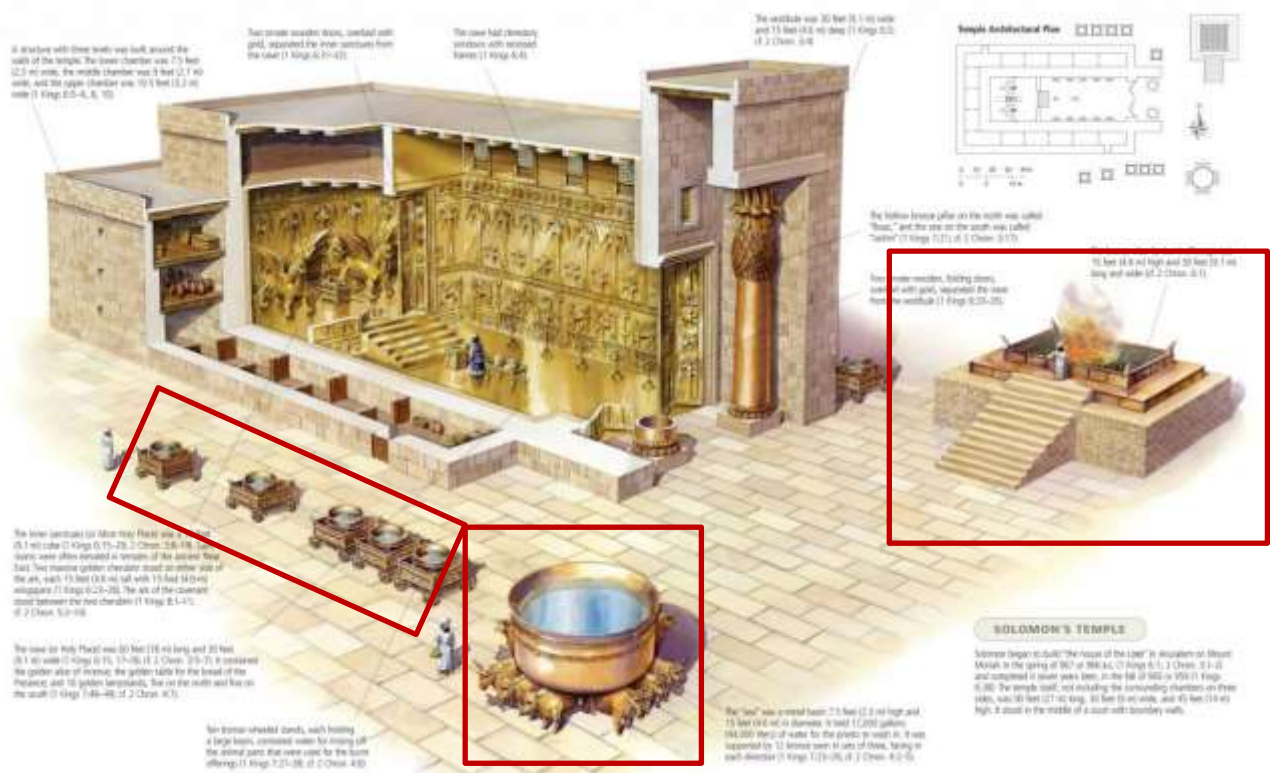
B. The porch (portico/vestibule)

C. The Holy Place

- Table of Showbread
- Altar of incense
- 10 Golden Lampstands

C. The Most Holy Place, the "Holy of Holies"

- Ark of the Covenant



A. Outside of the temple (Courtyard)

We're here at the Outer Courts of the temple. In those days, the people of Israel could ONLY worship God in the outer courts. So most people, like you and me (if we were Jews), had to stand outside the temple. They'd bring their offerings/sacrifice/requests to the priests, who would then take it to God.

i. Altar of Burnt Offering/Brazen Altar

- Made of acacia wood and overlaid with bronze
- This was where the Israelites would offer their burnt animal offerings to God for their sins year after year.
- Animal blood would be spilled on the altar to atone (cover up) their sins.



Suggestion: Prepare a box as an altar. Dress a kid up as high priest (cloth over head/robe). Prepare a soft toy or picture of sheep for another child as a worshipper. Get the worshipper to pass the soft toy to the high priest, who will put it onto the altar. Cover with a red cloth/paper to represent blood.



Picture of Jesus:

Jesus was the perfect offering to God; He shed His blood for our sins.

Animals' blood could only cover up our sins temporarily, but Jesus' blood takes away/removes all our sins (John 1:29).

Just as the altar was located outside the temple, Christ died outside of the camp as a sacrifice once and for all.

ii. Bronze Basin (laver/sea) & 10 Basins (lavenders/bowls)

- Every priest had to wash his hands and feet before entering the temple or risk being struck dead. (Exodus 30:17-21)
- Solomon built a large basin called Brazen Laver or Brazen Sea for the priests to wash themselves outside the temple.
- The Brazen Laver was a large bronze basin about 15 feet in diameter and over 7.5 feet high (higher than our mummies and daddies). It rested on the backs of 12 bronze oxen facing in different directions.
- There were also 10 bronze lavenders/bowls along the sides of the temple. These were wash basins to rinse the items used for burnt sacrifices.



Suggestion: Prepare 1 large basin with water (+ 10 plastic bowls, 5 on each side – optional). Kids take turns washing their hands in it.

Picture of Jesus:

The priests could not approach God's presence without washing themselves.

Today, through His finished work on the Cross, Jesus has washed us clean. So we can enter God's presence boldly and with confidence.

"Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:22)

Next week, we will enter the temple itself (the Holy Place) and check out the furnishings in there.



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TEMPLE FURNISHING (A)

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 10:22 *Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.*

[younger kids: *Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.*]



REVIEW

Last week, we learnt about how King Solomon built a temple to God.

It was built:

- with the best materials and by the best craftsmen
- as God's house where God's people could come to pray and receive forgiveness of their sins

We also learned that the temple was temporary ... a picture of who us today — **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that God lives in us forever!**



Do you remember the layout of the temple?

There were 3 sections — the porch (vestibule), the Holy Place (where the priests and worship leaders could enter to worship God), and the Inner Sanctuary ("Holy of Holies"): the place God "lived"

The layout and furnishing of Solomon's temple is similar as the tent that the Israelites used to worship God in since they came out of Egypt. (Exodus 25-27), except that the temple was about double the size of the tabernacle, and some of the furnishings were multiplied (10x).

Everything about the temple — layout and furnishings — are made according to perfect specifications because it serves as "a copy and shadow of what is in heaven". (Heb 8:5)

For example, last Sunday we learnt that:

The Altar of Burnt Offering: Jesus was the perfect offering to God who took away all our sins.

The Bronze Basins: Jesus has washed us clean so we can enter God's presence boldly and with confidence.

Let's continue to look at some of the furnishings in the temple, and how they are a copy and shadow of Jesus and His finished work on the cross.



LESSON: TEMPLE FURNISHING (1 Kings 5-9)

LAYOUT OF TEMPLE FURNISHING

A. Outside of the temple:

- Altar of Burnt Offering/Brazen altar
- Bronze basin (laver/sea)
- 10 basins (lavenders)

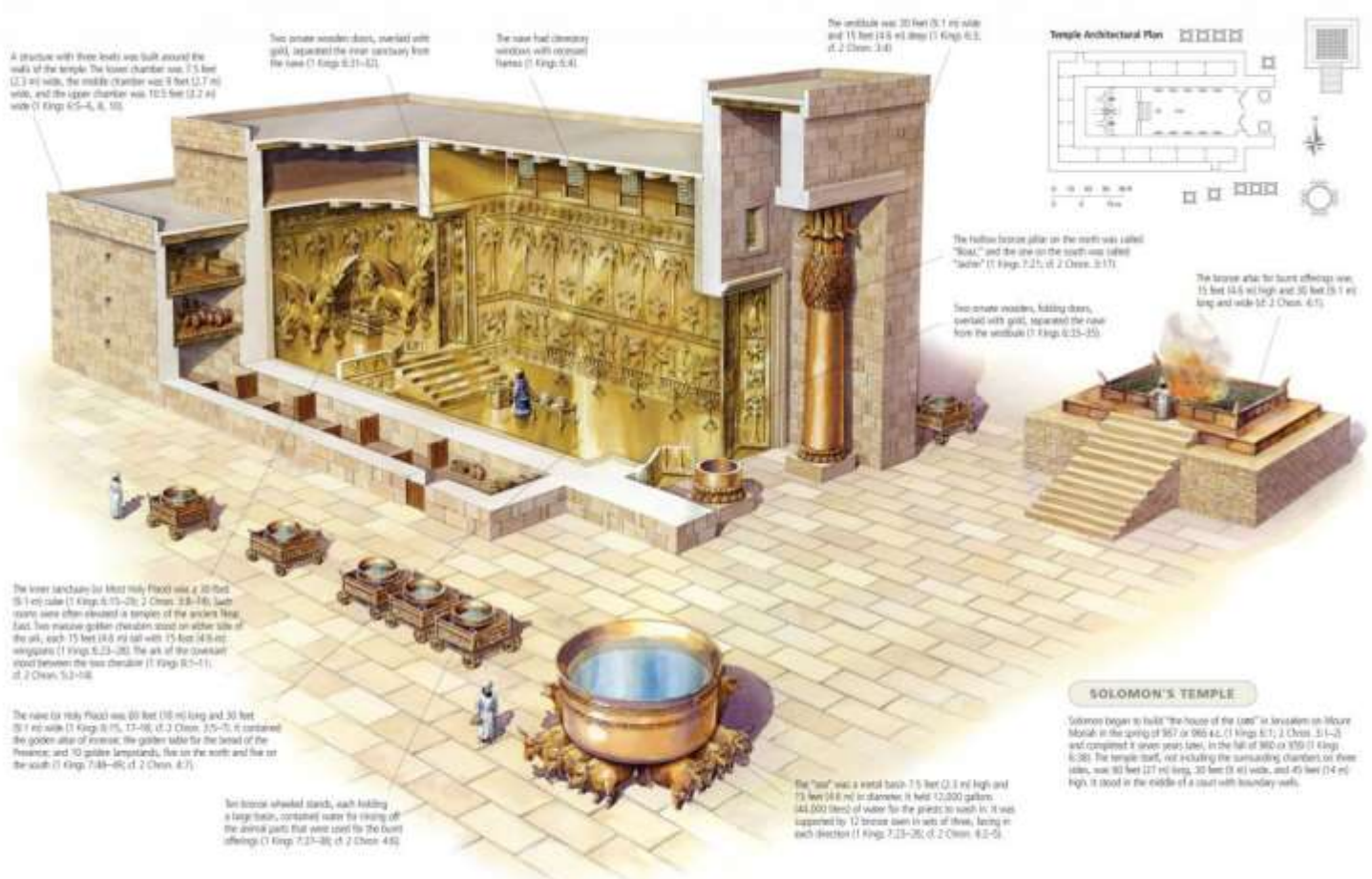
B. The porch (portico/vestibule)

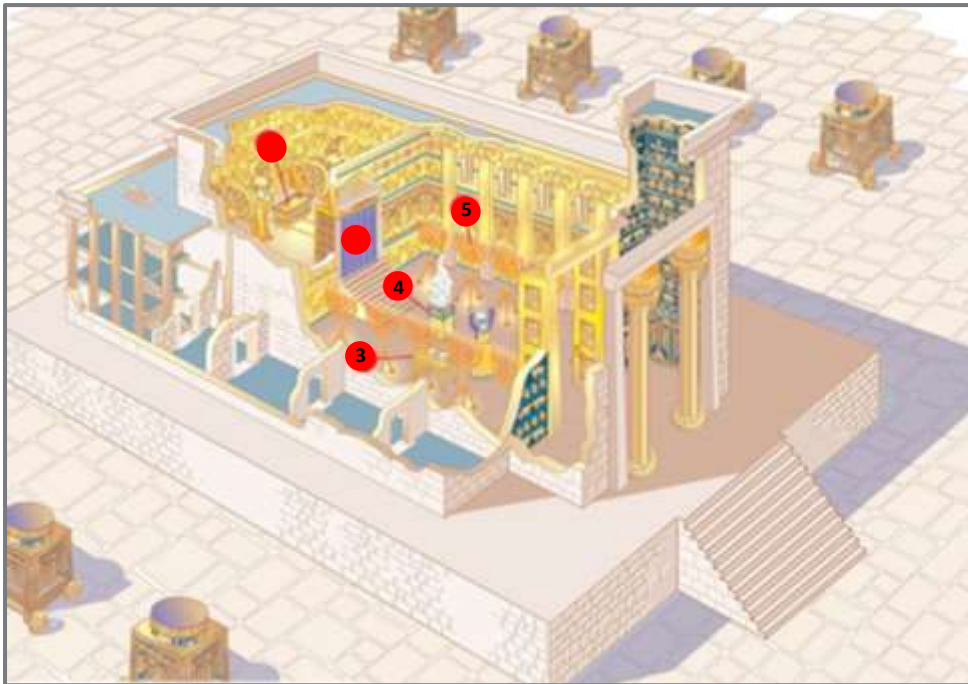
C. The Holy Place/Greater House/temple [this week's lesson]

- Table of Showbread
- Altar of incense
- 10 Golden Lampstands

C. The Most Holy Place, the "Holy of Holies"

- Ark of the Covenant





Prepare some props or age-appropriate activities for each item of furnishing.

E.g. get kids to light an incense stick for the altar of incense or an electric candle for the lampstands etc.

B. The Holy Place

As you cross the porch from the courtyard, you enter the Holy Place of the temple.

iii. The 10 Tables of Showbread (Sacred bread)

- Small tables made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold.
- The Table of Showbread is set at all times, just as a king's table is always set and prepared for his arrival.
- On the table is 12 loaves of bread (representing the 12 tribes of Israel) displayed in two rows of six each.
- They were made with the finest flour and were flat (or unleavened). They were eaten by the priests only, and only in the Holy Place. The priest would put the bread on the table for a week, then eat it on the Sabbath in the Holy Place and replace it with fresh bread. (Lev 24:5-8).
- The bread was a reminder of God's provision of manna for the 12 tribes of Israel throughout their 40-year journey in the desert.
- The table and the bread are a picture of God's desire to fellowship and commune with man — an invitation to share a meal together. (Rev 3:20)





Picture of Jesus:

Jesus says He is the bread of life (John 6:35). The manna and physical bread can only sustain our physical life; but the Bread of Life gives us eternal life in Christ.

Before He died, Jesus took bread, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, *“Take and eat; this is my body.”* (Matt 26:26)

On the cross, Jesus’ body was broken so that you and I can be made whole and be brought near to God and have communion/fellowship with Him. Every time we take the bread in the Holy Communion, we are reminded of Jesus’ broken body on the cross.

iv. Altar of Incense

- Every morning and evening, the priest burnt incense on this altar, filling the air with the sweet aroma of the incense, symbolising the prayers/intercession of God’s people rising up to God’s throne.



Picture of Jesus:

Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us (Romans 8:34)

Because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross, we can pray from a position of victory today — not begging God but thanking Him for what He has already done for us!

v. The 10 Lampstands

- Had to be always lit/kept burning by the priests (Exodus 27:20-21)
- Provided light in tabernacle/temple — a reminder to the Israelites that God provided light (pillar of fire) when they travelled through the desert for 40 years (Exodus 13:20-21)



Picture of Jesus:

Jesus is the light of the world — the true light that gives light to every man (John 1:9)

Jesus promised that when we follow Him, we will “never walk in darkness but will have the light of life”. (John 8:12) We also reflect Jesus’ light to the world.

Next week, we will enter the most sacred part of the temple (the Holy of Holies).



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TEMPLE FURNISHING (B)

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

John 8:12 *Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*



REVIEW

So far, we've learnt about how King Solomon built a temple to God.

It was built:

- with the best materials and by the best craftsmen
- as God's house where God's people could come to pray and receive forgiveness of their sins

We also learned that the temple was temporary ... a picture of who we are today — **we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that God lives in us forever!**



Do you remember the **layout** of the temple?

There were 3 sections — the porch (vestibule), the Holy Place (where the priests and worship leaders could enter to worship God), and the Inner Sanctuary ("Holy of Holies"): the place God "lived"

Everything about the temple — layout and furnishings — are made according to perfect specifications because it serves as "a copy and shadow of what is in heaven". (Heb 8:5)

For example, we've learnt that:

The Altar of Burnt Offering: Jesus was the perfect offering to God who took away all our sins.

The Bronze Basins: Jesus has washed us clean so we can enter God's presence boldly and with confidence.

Table of Showbread: Jesus is the Bread of Life

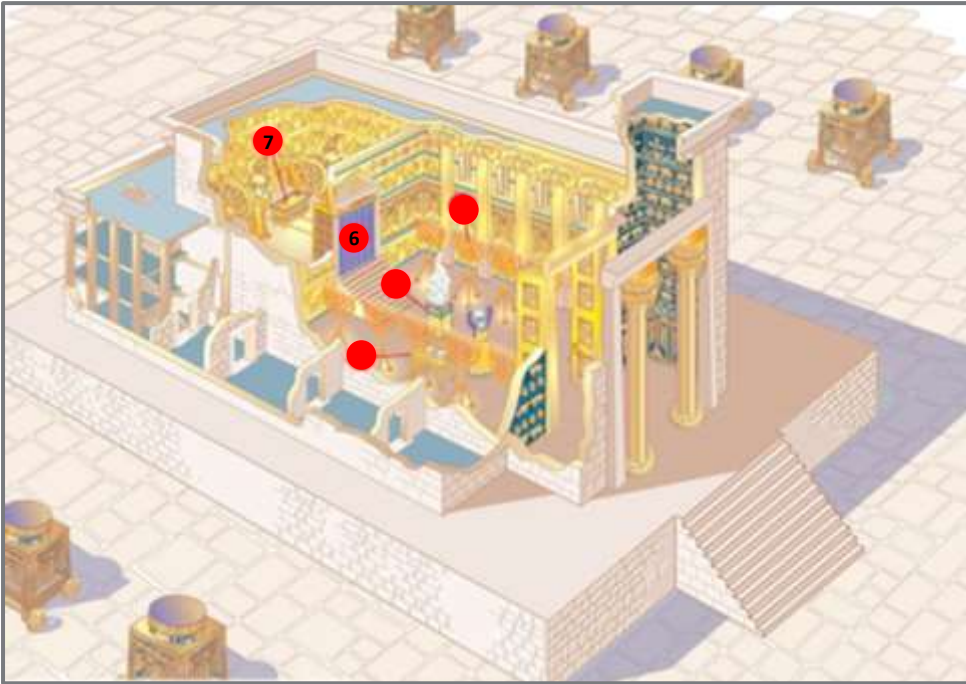
Altar of Incense: Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us

10 Lampstands: Jesus is the Light of the World

Let's continue to look at some of the furnishings in the temple, and how they are a copy and shadow of Jesus and His finished work on the cross.



LESSON: TEMPLE FURNISHING (1 Kings 5-9)



Prepare some props or age-appropriate activities for each item of furnishing.

E.g. play a simple guessing game with a blanket as a curtain etc.

C. The Holy of Holies

The Holy of Holies was so holy that only the High Priest was allowed to enter into it. Once a year on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement, the High Priest was permitted to pass through the veil and enter into the presence of God. This was the time when the High Priest sought the Mercy of God and made atonement for his sins and the sins of the people of Israel.

vi. Veil

- Curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubims worked into it. Placed between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place/Holy of Holies.
- The Veil symbolises the separation between a Holy God and unholy man. Man could not simply enter God's presence or they could fall down dead.





Picture of Jesus:

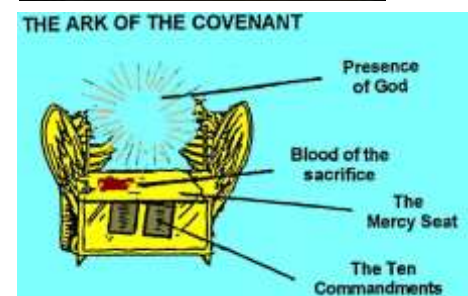
When Jesus died on the cross, the tall, thick veil in the temple (of his time) was miraculously torn in two, from top to bottom (Matt 27:50-51).

The torn veil illustrated Jesus' body broken for us, opening the way for us to come to God. As Jesus cried out "It is finished!" on the Cross, He was proclaiming that God's redemptive plan was now complete. There's no need to sacrifice animals any more because the ultimate offering, the Lamb of God, had been sacrificed.

Because of Jesus, we can enter God's presence boldly and confidently through Christ (Heb 10:19-20) — no more separation! On the Cross, Jesus' body was broken so that you and I can be made whole and be brought near to God and have communion/fellowship with Him. Every time we take the bread in the Holy Communion, we are reminded of Jesus' broken body on the Cross.

vii. Ark of the Covenant

- Made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold, inside and out. To be carried by poles at the sides of the ark only by the Levites — too holy to be touched.
- Inside the Ark: Reminders of man's rebellion/sin
 - Tablets of 10 Commandments (golden calf)
 - Rod of Aaron that budded (Rebellion of Korah)
 - Pot of manna (Israelite's murmurings in the wilderness)
- Mercy Seat: cover on top of the ark
- 2 cherubims on both ends of the cover, facing each other, with wings spread upward overshadowing the cover
 - The presence of God rested between the cherubims — no one allowed to look directly on the Mercy Seat
- The High Priest sprinkles sacrificial blood on the Mercy Seat on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16:11-17) so that God will not punish the people for their sins. No one could enter the Holy of Holies without the shedding of blood. (Heb 9:7)
- Beautiful picture of God's mercy and forgiveness over man's rebellion and sin.





Picture of Jesus:

Jesus is our High Priest who entered the Holy of Holies with His own shed blood. (Heb 9:11-12)

Jesus is our mercy seat. He stands between a holy God and sinful man. Just as the sins of the whole nation were atoned for by the sprinkling of the blood on the mercy seat, Christ's blood atoned for the sins of the entire world.

Romans 3:25 *For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.*

CONCLUSION

Solomon built a beautiful temple for God. It was a grand place of worship, sacrifice and prayer.

But the grand temple was just a picture and shadow for the Israelites. It was an image of heaven, of God's redemption plan. It told a story of how we cannot go to God on our own because of sin, but God, in His grace and mercy, came to open the way and bring us back to Him through Jesus' finished work on the cross.

If you would like to accept Jesus' finished work on the cross and His life in you, pray along with me:
Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross for me. Thank you for taking away all my sins and washing me clean with your blood. Thank you for your broken body that makes me whole. Because of you, I can come to God freely and boldly in your name. I accept you into my heart and my life; live your life in me and through me. In Jesus' name, Amen!



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CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

TEMPLE FURNISHING (C)

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 3:25 *For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.*



REVIEW

What are some things that we've learned about King Solomon so far?

- He was super wise – When God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon did not ask for riches or fame or long life. Instead he asked for wisdom.
- He was super rich – God also blessed Solomon with all the wealth and splendour. And everyone knew who he was, even a queen from a distant land, who came to see Solomon's glory for herself.
- He built God's temple – his father, King David, had wanted to build a house for God, but God said his son, Solomon, will build it.
Do you remember the different areas of the temple? How about the different furnishings and how they were a picture of Jesus and His finished work?

We know that King David wrote most of the psalms in the Bible.

But did you also know that King Solomon wrote some of the poetry books in the Bible? He wrote:

- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon)

Today, we will look at the book of Proverbs.





INTRO

WHAT IS A PROVERB?

Proverbs are wise sayings about life to help people live right and make wise choices.

The world is full of wise sayings/proverbs that we can learn from.

E.g.

- *Practise makes perfect*: If we practise something over and over again, we will be very good at it.
- *Honesty is the best policy*: We should always tell the truth.
- *Slow and steady wins the race*: We don't have to be the fastest all the time, but if we hang in there, we will surely succeed.

For example:

Once there lived in a forest a rabbit and a tortoise. The rabbit was very proud of his speed. He made fun of the tortoise that plodded along slowly on his short legs. One day, the rabbit challenged the tortoise to a race. When the race started, the rabbit ran very fast. The tortoise was left much behind. The rabbit stopped to take rest under a tree. He fell asleep. The tortoise didn't give up. He kept on going and going. He passed the sleeping rabbit and reached the winning post. The rabbit woke up and ran as fast as he could. But the tortoise had already won the race.

Slow and steady wins the race!





LESSON

WISE SAYINGS OF A WISE MAN

Being a wise man, Solomon wrote many wise sayings/proverbs, about 3,000, which make up most of the book of Proverbs.

The main theme of the book of Proverbs was on the importance of **WISDOM**. Solomon wrote the proverbs to share wisdom and insight, so that people could

- learn and grow to be wise like him
- make right choices and live a life of peace and prosperity
- avoid destructive mistakes
- live peacefully with others in this world

[optional]

WISDOM

Solomon describes **Wisdom** as:

- **Better/more precious than silver, gold and rubies**
Solomon chose wisdom from God over silver, gold and rubies because he believed it was more important than all these.
- **Source of long life, riches and honour**
If we have God's wisdom, we can make wise decisions that result in blessings of long life, riches and honour, just like Solomon.
- **Pleasant and Peaceful**
God's ways bring peace to us and all around us. Sometimes when we try to do things our own way or in our own wisdom, it causes strife and disunity among others. Ask God for wisdom to do things peacefully
- **A Tree of Life and Blessing**
Wisdom from God is the source of life and blessings to us, and we should hold on tight to it.





THE TRUE WISE MAN

However, despite Solomon being the wisest man in the world and writing many wise things, yet, at the end of his life, he didn't follow the wisdom God gave him. He had many foreign wives who led him to worship other gods. As a result, his kingdom was divided after his death.

Who then is the true wise man?

A thousand years after Solomon, the Bible tells us that one greater than Solomon is here! (Luke 11:31).

His name is Jesus!

JESUS OUR WISDOM

Jesus is the perfectly wise man who lived a perfect life to the very end

Even as a young boy at 12 years old, Jesus was discussing with the teachers of the law in the temple.

"Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers." (Luke 2:41-50)

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

When Pharisees and Sadducees tried to trick Him, Jesus always found a way to turn the tables on them.

In all He taught and all He did, Jesus led a life of wisdom.

Jesus was never lazy, never one-sided, never gossiped or lied. He lived out every proverb perfectly. His obedience and perfect life was deserving of every blessing of God. He should live a long life full of riches and honour, peace and blessings.

YET, he was punished instead. Not for His sins and mistakes. But for ours. So that we need not be punished by death for our sins (Prov 16:5).

And when Jesus rose from the dead, He gave all of us His goodness so that we have all the life and blessings He deserved.

Choose Jesus, choose wisdom, choose life

In Proverbs, Solomon keeps urging us to choose wisdom.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is God's Wisdom (1 Cor 1:30)

So if we believe in Jesus, we have His Wisdom and His Life!



LIVE WISELY

How do we live wisely? While there are many good lessons we can learn from the book of Proverbs, we don't have to follow the instructions like a recipe book. Just like we don't have to follow the 10 Commandments to live a godly life.

Before He returned to heaven, Jesus promised his disciples (and us) to send us His Holy Spirit. Today, we have the Holy Spirit in us. He is our guide and our counsellor. And He will teach us what to do in the different situations and circumstances we may face.

The Holy Spirit will teach us what to say and tell us what to do. We just need to follow Him and depend on Him.

So ... ***choose Jesus, choose wisdom, choose life!***



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PROVERBS

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 3:5 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.*

WORKSHEET (older kids)

Match the Proverb

SHARE & PRAY

Remember to get new kids to fill up contact cards.



tNCC: Proverbs of Solomon — JESUS is our WISDOM

Name:

Prov 10:22

The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich,

- those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Prov 11:25

The generous will prosper;

- but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Prov 12:19

Truthful lips endure forever,

- and he adds no sorrow with it.

Prov 13:1

A wise child accepts a parent's discipline;

- but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prov 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath,

- a mocker refuses to listen to correction.

Prov 15:20

A wise son brings joy to his father,

- but a foolish man despises his mother.

Prov 16:3

Commit your actions to the LORD,

- and a brother is born to help in time of need.

Prov 17:17

A friend is always loyal,

- the righteous run to it and are safe.

Prov 18:10

The name of the LORD is a fortified tower;

- and your plans will succeed.

Prov 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death,

- and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5



REVIEW

Remember King Solomon?

- He was super wise – When God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon did not ask for riches or fame or long life. Instead he asked for wisdom.
- He was super rich – God also blessed Solomon with all the wealth and splendour. And everyone knew who he was, even a queen from a distant land, who came to see Solomon's glory for herself.
- He built God's temple – his father, King David, had wanted to build a house for God, but God said his son, Solomon, will build it.
Do you remember the different areas of the temple? How about the different furnishings and how they were a picture of Jesus and His finished work?
- He wrote the books of:
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon)

Proverbs was about wisdom, and reminds us that Jesus is our true Wisdom.

Today, we will look at the book of **Ecclesiastes** <help kids to pronounce ... E-clee-sias-tis>.

Solomon thought a lot about life and the meaning of life. He wrote down his thoughts in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes means "teacher" or "preacher".

Solomon (son of David, king in Jerusalem) probably wrote this book near the end of his life, when he was an old man.



HOOK

Suggestions for activities (choose an appropriate one for your age group)

PLAY: BUBBLES

Using some bubble mix, blow some bubble in the room and have the kids try to catch the bubble with their hands. Talk about how the bubbles burst, most straight away and some in a little while.

GAME: Blow wind blow

<http://cellgroupgames.blogspot.com/2010/03/blow-wind-blow.html>

Phew! That was fun wasn't it? Running around like that. But after a while, all that running around can be tiring.



LESSON

MEANINGLESS

[Link for Bubbles hook]

King Solomon discovered that things are like bubbles. He chased all sort of things but found that they all burst and didn't keep him happy for long.

[Link for Blow Wind Blow hook]

In life, some people are always running around, chasing after money, or fun, or knowledge etc. All that running around can be tiring. And we often end up empty, as King Solomon realised.

The theme of the book of Ecclesiastes can be summed up in one word: "Meaningless".

When something is meaningless, it feels empty. Like a bubble that has burst, or chasing after wind.

Solomon described life as trying to chase after the wind!

"Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (1:2)

There is nothing new under the sun. (1:9)

Solomon had everything in this world that anyone could hope for. He had wisdom from God. He had pleasure, riches, achievements (the big beautiful temple) and lots of possessions.

Although he was so wise and rich, he made some wrong decisions in life, and things didn't go too well for him by the end of his life.

Solomon was a very successful king, but he married many, many foreign wives — he had 1,000!! (700 wives — wives of royal birth — and 300 concubines)

These wives did not know the true God. They led King Solomon to worship false gods/idols. Instead of trusting on God with all his heart, Solomon turned away from the true God. (1 Kings 11:4-6)

God told Solomon that because he turned away from Him, Solomon's glorious and famous kingdom would be divided up after his death.

Such a sad and empty end for a king who had everything "under the sun".



[optional: for older kids]

As Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, the things of this world alone do not bring real lasting satisfaction. They are all "Meaningless! Meaningless!"

Pleasure was meaningless

"I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure." (2:10)

Work was meaningless

"All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless." (2:23)

Wealth was meaningless

*"Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless." (5:10)*

Even Wisdom was meaningless:

"Like the fool, the wise too must die!" (2:16)

VIDEO

What's in the Bible: Ecclesiastes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DA8O6813xs>



DON'T LOOK "UNDER THE SUN". LOOK TO THE SON!

If everything is meaningless, then what is the meaning of life?

Solomon concluded Ecclesiastes by telling people to remember their Creator while they were young (12:1).

*"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man." (12:13)*

Under the Old Covenant, that was man's duty. To fulfil God's law.

But man failed over and over again.

Solomon, with all His wisdom and power, failed miserably.

Only the One greater than Solomon could fulfil the entire Law and keep ALL God's commandments.

That man is Jesus!

So what then is the whole duty of man today? Believe in Jesus! (John 6:28-29; 1 John 3:23)

Instead of looking for meaning "under the sun", we should look to the SON!

Jesus, the SON of God, is the one person who fills us up completely.

We don't have to run around to chase after Him. Because He was the one who came to look for us and to save us! He came down from heaven to give us hope and to give us life.

In Christ, we have true meaning in life! (John 10:10)



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ECCLESIASTES

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." (John 6:29)

RED Class: *"I believe in the one God has sent — Jesus."*

CRAFT IDEA

Sun or Sunglasses with the words "Look to the SON!"

SHARE & PRAY

Remember to get new kids to fill up contact cards.



REVIEW

Remember King Solomon?

- He was super wise – When God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon did not ask for riches or fame or long life. Instead he asked for wisdom.
- He was super rich – God also blessed Solomon with all the wealth and splendour. And everyone knew who he was, even a queen from a distant land, who came to see Solomon's glory for herself.
- He built God's temple – his father, King David, had wanted to build a house for God, but God said his son, Solomon, will build it.
- Also, he wrote the books of:
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon)

Proverbs was about wisdom, and reminds us that Jesus is our true Wisdom.

Ecclesiastes was about the meaning of life, and reminds us to look to the Son.

Song of Songs, or **Song of Solomon**, is unlike any other book in the bible. It's a special love story of a man and his bride.

Let's find out more about it today.



HOOK

Who is someone whom you love a lot?
Tell me about them. Why do you love them?
[get kids to share]

Many of you talk about love between parent and child. That's a very wonderful love.

Some of you talk about love with your best friends. That's awesome too.

Another powerful love is between a husband and a wife, which is one of the closest relationships we have on this earth.

God uses human relationships to describe His love and relationship with us.

E.g. God is the Father, and we are His children.

He also uses a picture of a **bridegroom and his bride** — just like Christ is the bridegroom, and we, the church, are His bride.

Have you ever heard couples who are very much in love talk about each other? What do you think they talk about?

"He is the most wonderful guy I ever met!" *"She has the most beautiful, wise, and warm eyes I'd ever seen. I couldn't take my eyes off her."*

In **Song of Songs**, King Solomon appears as a young shepherd who falls in love with a Shulamite girl. He promises to marry her on his return. When he returns, much to her surprise, he appears as a king and takes her back to Jerusalem to be his bride.

Throughout the book, Solomon talks about the girl, how beautiful she is; and she talks about Solomon, how beautiful he is.





LESSON

HE CALLS HER BEAUTIFUL

The Shulamite girl was a beautiful lady. However she was also abused and bullied by her brothers who forced us to work in the vineyards. She worked in the fields every day under the sun. After being under the hot sun every day, her skin became dark and tanned. As a result, she was self-conscious of her appearance.

*Don't stare at me because I am dark —
the sun has darkened my skin.
My brothers were angry with me;
they forced me to care for their vineyards,
So I couldn't care for myself—my own vineyard.*
(SOS 1:6)

However, her beloved lover (Solomon) thought otherwise. *"You are altogether beautiful, my darling, beautiful in every way.* (Song of Solomon 4:7)

In fact, Solomon keeps telling her over and over again how beautiful and lovely she is — the *"fairest among women"*, *"all beautiful"* and *flawless.* *"There is no flaw in you"* (Songs 1:8, 15, 4:7,9). To him, she is beautiful beyond words. He invites her to rise up and go away with Him.

SHE CALLS HIM BEAUTIFUL*

In response, the Shulamite woman describes how lovely her lover is.
E.g. SOS 5:10-16

My beloved is radiant, He is outstanding among ten thousand, His head is purest gold, His hair is wavy and black as a raven, His eyes are like doves, His lips are like lilies, etc.

JESUS IS BEAUTIFUL*

The Shulamite's descriptions paint us a picture of what Jesus is like:

Jesus is glorious, completely pure and holy, outstanding, kingly, compassionate, wise and discerning, speaks pleasing and healing words.

* optional for RED/BLUE Class



JESUS CALLS US BEAUTIFUL

Solomon paints for us a picture of how God sees us, His precious love.

God loves us, saves us and blesses us whatever our imperfections may be. Whether our nose is too long, our hair too frizzy or our head is too big. Or whether you think you are not smart enough or good enough. Or maybe you have a bad temper, or are clumsy or lazy. Or maybe you've been abused or bullied by others who make you feel small and worthless.

The truth is: God has loved you from before you were in your mother's womb. He loved you as He formed you and knit you together. He loved you when you were born. He knows your coming and going and is intimately acquainted with all your ways. He knows every word you are about to say and every thought in your mind. He sees and knows the pain, the hurt and the tears you cry. He knows all the naughty things you've done or are going to do. He knows that you are not perfect and yet He still loves you. He has loved you and will forever love all of you despite your insecurities and imperfections.

In fact, even when we were at our ugliest, Christ loved us, His bride, so much that He came to die for us and shed His precious blood for us. He rose from the dead, and His life and beauty shines in us and through us. He covers us with his *banner of love*.

God looks at us today and tells us: *You are altogether beautiful, my darling, beautiful in every way, and there is no spot in you.*

To God, you are beautiful beyond words. You have captivated His heart. And He invites you to rise up and go away with Him.



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CHURCH

SONG OF SONGS

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

SONG

His banner over me is love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VUb6m4hXRw>

CRAFT IDEA

Mirror with the words "Jesus sees me as beautiful"

SHARE & PRAY

Remember to get new kids to fill up contact cards.