

# Solomon Builds the Temple



Welcome to the story of Solomon Builds the Temple! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

## Small Group Builders

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Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Builder's Handshake**

Try this fun handshake in pairs. The first person extends his or her hand in the thumbs-up position. The second person wraps his or her hand around the first person's thumb with the thumb up. Repeat until all four hands are stacked on top of one another. Move your arms back and forth like you are sawing wood.

- **Personal Space**

One room in the temple was made especially for God. Do you have your own room at home? Maybe you have a favorite chair or a spot at the counter that you call your own. What places in your home are especially for you?

- **God's House**

The Bible also calls the temple a house. Lie down on the floor, and use your bodies to make the outline of a house. Don't forget a roof. If your group is large enough, add doors and windows, too!

## Conversation Sparks

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Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- If you were building a temple for God, what materials would you use?
- What is the most dazzling, amazing building in your city or town?
- I wonder if God only lives in the temple. Where else do you think God might live?
- I wonder what kind of tools the builders of the temple used.
- What did Solomon use to cover the room especially for God?
- I wonder what the temple looked like once it was finished.

## Transition Tips

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As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Your Own Temple**

Your church is a place for God—just like Solomon’s temple! As you move from place to place, take time to notice what is dazzling and amazing about your church building. Point out these special features to each other and celebrate them.

- **Be a Builder**

Pretend to be builders of the temple. Follow the order that the Bible gives. Start by gathering large stones, then build the walls, floor, and ceiling with wood. Then decorate the inside with wood carvings. Finish by covering everything with gold.

- **Seven Steps**

It took seven years for Solomon to build the temple. See how much distance you can cover by taking seven huge steps. See how little distance you can cover in seven small steps. Do you think that seven years is a long time or a short time to build a temple?

- **Worship Space**

A temple is a place to worship God, just like the sanctuary in church. As you walk through the halls, sing a song, clap, or dance to worship God! If you need to be quiet while you travel, use the travel time to say a silent prayer of thanks for your church building.

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- **On The Job**

Construction is a big job. Has anyone in your group been to a construction site? Maybe your home was remodeled, or you drove past road construction. Share stories of what you saw, heard, smelled, and felt at the construction site.

- **House of Cards**

Bring in a deck of cards to teach kids how to make card houses or temples. Lean two cards against one another to form an upside-down "V." Add another upside-down "V" one cm away. Lay one card horizontally on top of the two points. Keep going to make your temple wider and taller.

- **Rock, Cedar, Gold**

Play this modified game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" with the building materials from the temple. Use a fist for rock, a flat hand for cedar, and wiggle your fingers for gold. Rock smashes cedar, burning cedar melts gold, and gold covers rock.

## Conversation Sparks

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Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Are there places in your town or city where you think God might live?
- What did Solomon's workers use to make the roof and the floor of the temple?
- What was kept in the holiest room of the temple? Do you think our church has a room that is the holiest? Why or why not?
- I wonder why the Bible is so specific about how the temple was built.
- How many years did it take to build the temple? How long did it take to build this church?
- Which part of the temple would you most like to see?

## Transition Tips

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- **Temple Tunnel**

Create a moving tunnel to get you from one place to another. Line up across from a partner, and connect arms to form the roof; when everyone lines up together a tunnel will form. Take turns running through the tunnel with your partner and reassembling on the other end. The tunnel will move with you as you go!

- **Search the Church**

Solomon built his temple out of the most beautiful and expensive materials. He wanted to make the temple special. As you travel, look for things that make *your* church special. They might not be made out of most expensive materials, so look closely!

- **Rock and Roll**

It took some pretty big stones to build the temple. As you travel, pretend to roll a huge, heavy stone. You will have to work together to push and roll it to your destination.

- **Red Light, Loud Light**

Solomon was careful not to have loud building noises heard in the temple. Play a modified game of "Red Light, Green Light." On green light, kids make loud building noises as they pretend to hammer, saw, and construct. On red light, kids build as quietly as possible.

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- **Helping Hands**

It took many builders to complete the temple. Has anyone in your group ever helped with a building project? Maybe you built a birdhouse, put together a model airplane, or constructed a gingerbread house. Share stories about what you have built and what tools and materials you used.

- **Lucky Seven**

It took Solomon seven years to build the temple! How many kids in your group are seven years old? What about six, or eight? Think of all the things they have done in the time it took to build one building!

- **Build It Together**

Work as a group to build a temple of your own. Stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a square to make the walls of the temple and connect hands with the person across from you to form the roof.

## Conversation Sparks

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Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- I wonder why Solomon chose stone, wood, and gold to build the temple. What would you use?
- Are there any places in your life where you feel close to God?
- Why did the workers cut the stones in the hills away from the temple?
- Do any of the building materials sound unusual to you? What are they?
- What was kept inside the box called the Ark of the Covenant? Does your church have a box where it keeps something valuable?
- I wonder what it was like the first time people went into the temple.

## Transition Tips

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- **Field Trip**

Solomon's temple was a worship space. If possible, take kids on a short field trip into the worship space at your church. What is unique about the space? What signs or reminders of God's presence do you see in the space?

- **Building Noises**

Solomon did not want God to hear any loud building noises, so the workers had to gather stones far away from the temple. Start making loud building noises far away from your destination. As you get closer, become quieter and quieter so that you are silent by the time you arrive.

- **Cubit Counting**

In Bible times, size was often measured in cubits. The temple was 60 cubits long! A cubit is a length based off of the size of a forearm. There are seven palms in a cubit, and four digits (fingers) in a palm. As you walk down the hall, use your arms, hands, and fingers to measure part of your church in cubits.

- **Story Building**

It took a lot of cooperation to build Solomon's temple. Use your words to build a story together as you travel. Have the first person start a story with one word. The next person adds a second word and so on until you have gone around several times to create your story.