

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> None</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Gold fabric (bedding, curtains, towels, scarves, etc.), tape measures, work gloves, buckets, shovels, bricks, cardboard boxes (many in assorted sizes), cedar lawn edging (several rolls), markers and crayons, large household sponges (optional), paint brushes (optional), washable paint (optional, gold and brown), floor covering (optional), wheelbarrow (optional)</p>
Upper Elementary	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Room dividers, mural paper, cardboard boxes, gold fabric, wood, crown, rags, tools, tool belts, hard hats, work aprons, clipboards, markers, crayons, tape, This New Temple Skit Script (pages 97-98)</p>
All Kids	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Blocks, pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Cardboard boxes (assorted sizes), gold fabric (bedding, curtains, scarves, etc), wood scraps (some cedar), flat stones or bricks, tissue paper (yellow or gold), roll paper, scissors, glue sticks, tape, markers or crayons, This Is the Temple That Solomon Built Script (page 99)</p>



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.



**Workshop Focus:** My hands can help do God's work.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Solomon Builds the Temple Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama! Show me some things you can do with your hands.**

Allow kids to respond to this and the following question. **What can you make with your hands? Hands can do many things. People use their hands to build something in today's story.**

Give Spark Story Bibles to each of the kids. Help kids find Solomon Builds the Temple on pages 136-139. Encourage kids to follow along as you read the story.

**This is a story of how the people built a temple, or church, for God. Use your hands to act out what the people in the story are doing.** Read the story.

**Let's talk about the story.** Point to the picture on page 137. **Who wanted to build a temple for God? (King Solomon) Who helped Solomon? (workers) What part of the temple would you want to build?** Allow kids to respond. **God was happy with the temple. God used the hands of many workers to build it. My hands can help do God's work!**

**Let's use our hands to build a temple while we retell this story.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Building the Temple

---

**Set Up:** Provide a wide-open space for this activity. Place the props around the perimeter of the space. Set the boxes, cedar edging, and craft supplies in an area where kids can use them. Draw an outline of the Ark of the Covenant on a medium-sized box for kids to decorate. (See page 139 of the Spark Story Bible.) Optional: Set up a painting station with floor covering, sponges, brushes, and paint.

### Activity Instructions

Before playing the story:

Discuss the activity with the kids. **We're going to pretend we are Solomon's workers and use our hands to build the temple. First we'll use our hands to make some props. Then we'll play the story.**

1. Invite a group of kids to make cardboard boxes look like large stones.
  - a. **What do you think the large square stones used in the temple looked like? What color were they? Color the boxes to look like stones.**
  - b. Optional: **Dip the sponges into paint and stamp them on the boxes to make them look like stones.**
2. Ask volunteers to decorate the Ark of the Covenant.
  - a. **Paint (optional) or color the box gold.**
  - b. **Look at the picture in the Spark Story Bible for an idea of what the Ark of the Covenant looked like.**
3. Encourage kids to decorate the cedar edging planks.
  - a. Optional: **Create some individual planks by removing them from the rolls of edging.**
  - b. **Draw some fancy designs or color some flowers on the planks.**
4. Allow some time for kids to wash up and transition to the story area.
5. Ask a shepherd to move the newly created props to the perimeter of the story area.

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

### Supplies

Gold fabric (bedding, curtains, towels, scarves, etc.)

Tape measures

Work gloves

Buckets

Shovels

Bricks

Cardboard boxes (many in assorted sizes)

Cedar lawn edging (several rolls)

Markers and crayons

Large household sponges (optional)

Paint brushes (optional)

Washable paint (optional, gold and brown)

Floor covering (optional)

Wheelbarrow (optional)

Play the story:

Invite the kids to sit in the story area. Introduce the different props around the room. **Pretend you are the workers who work for King Solomon. Listen carefully, and get ready to use the props to help build the temple.**

1. **King Solomon loved God. He wanted to build a building where God would live forever. King Solomon wanted the temple to be the most dazzling, amazing building ever built. Use your imagination, and tell me what you think the temple looked like.** Kids describe the temple.
2. **First you must measure, cut, and shape the stones in the hills.** Encourage kids to use the tools and gloves to measure and shape the boxes and bricks.
3. **Now let's move the stones and bricks to build the walls of the temple.** Help kids work together to decide where to put the walls. Encourage the use of buckets, gloves, and wheelbarrow (optional).
4. **King Solomon told the workers to decorate fancy wood, called cedar, with designs and flowers. Solomon knew God would like how sweet the wood smelled. Use cedar to make the floor of the temple.** Encourage kids to work together to create the floor.
5. **Finally, Solomon wanted to make a special room for God. First, we need to cover the room completely in gold!** Kids drape gold fabric around the structure. **Look how shiny and shimmery the room is!**
6. **Now let's place the Ark of the Covenant in the gold room. Wherever the Ark of the Covenant is, God is!** Invite kids to have a parade as they move the Ark.
7. **When the temple was finished, all of the people went inside and worshiped God!** Try to get everyone inside the temple and shout praises to God.

After playing the story:

Gather the kids to debrief the story. **What was your favorite part of the temple?**

Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions: **Why did Solomon build the temple?** (*He wanted God to live there.*) **What did the workers use to help build the temple?** (*hands, brain, materials, etc.*) **How do you think God felt about the temple?** Allow kids to respond. **God gave Solomon and the workers hands to build the temple. Like the workers, my hands can do God's work.**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

---

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! Who built a temple for God?** (*Solomon and the workers*) **We learned how Solomon told the workers to build the temple with stones, cedar wood, and gold. The workers used their hands. God was pleased with the temple. Like the workers, my hands can help do God's work. What is something you can do for God with your hands?** Allow kids to respond.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

---

**Let's clap hands during our prayer.**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Solomon** (clap, clap)

**and the workers' hands.** (clap, clap)

**Use my hands** (clap, clap)

**to do your work!** (clap, clap)

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** God chooses me to help.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Solomon Builds the Temple Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama! I'm going to choose kids to be on my team today.**

Pick a few kids. **How does it feel to be chosen?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following question: **How does it feel not to be chosen? People are chosen to help the king build something in our story.**

Direct kids to find 1 Kings 6 on pages 371-372 of their Spark Bibles. Invite kids to mark the passage with an I Looked It Up, I Read It, or Makes Me Want To sticker, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. **Solomon was the son of King David. Solomon decided to build a magnificent house (temple) for the Lord. This chapter provides some of the details of the building.** Invite volunteers to read the following passages.

- 1 Kings 6:1-2
- 1 Kings 6:7-9
- 1 Kings 6:11-13
- 1 Kings 6:14, 19
- 1 Kings 6:27-29
- 1 Kings 6:31, 38

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Pencils

**What did Solomon decide to build?** (*a house for the Lord*) **What were some of the materials Solomon used in the temple?** (*stone, cypress, cedar, gold, olive wood*)

**How many people do you think helped build the temple?** Allow kids to respond. **It must have been a great honor to be chosen to help build the temple. We may not help build a temple, but there are plenty of ways we can help God. God chooses me to help.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### This New Temple

---

**Set Up:** Define a stage area with room dividers arranged to form the back and side walls of the temple. Angle the side walls toward the audience, setting them slightly apart from the back wall to allow room for all of the actors to be inside the temple at the same time. Cover the room dividers with mural paper. Place the props, costumes, and supplies where kids can access them. Make several copies of This New Temple Skit Script on pages 97-98.

#### Activity Instructions

Before the skit:

Gather the kids to discuss the setting for the skit. **There is a television show on public television that features teams of workers working together to renovate and restore old houses. A construction supervisor usually guides the show's host through the house, stopping to show the work being done in different areas of the house. We're going to do our own version of the show as if we were showing the construction of a new structure, This New Temple.**

1. Invite two kids to play the parts of Chris (supervisor) and Sol (host). Give each kid a copy of the This New Temple Skit Script.
  - a. **Read through the script, and ask for help with anything you don't understand.**
  - b. **Choose a costume for your character.**
2. Invite one to three kids to participate in one the following different construction crews in the skit: stonemasons, woodcutters, woodcarvers, and goldsmiths. Give each crew a script.
  - a. **Stonemasons, you are the crew that cuts, sets, and carves the stone for the walls of the temple. Use cardboard boxes as the stone. Work together to decide what you will be doing during the skit.**
  - b. **Woodcutters, you are in charge of cutting, laying, and securing the wood for the floor, stairway, and doors of the temple. Decide together what props you will use and what you will be doing during the skit.**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles

#### Supplies

Room dividers  
Mural paper  
Cardboard boxes  
Gold fabric  
Wood  
Crown  
Rags  
Tools  
Tool belts  
Hard hats  
Work aprons  
Clipboards  
Markers  
Crayons  
Tape  
This New Temple Skit Script  
(pages 97-98)

- c. **Woodcarvers, you are in charge of “carving” intricate designs in the walls of the temple. Use markers and crayons to create carvings (drawings) on the walls during the skit.**
  - d. **Goldsmiths, you will be in charge of covering the temple with gold (coloring and fabric). You will also be the group who brings the Ark of the Covenant prop inside the temple at the end. Work together to decide what you will do during the skit.**
  - e. **Everyone can choose props and costume pieces for their part, as well.**
3. Have a few volunteers design part of the set.
- a. Assign one or two kids to create an Ark of the Covenant using the supplies available. **The Ark was a box carrying the Ten Commandments, manna, and some other important reminders of God’s love for the people. Look on page 139 of the Spark Story Bible for some inspiration.**
  - b. Invite one or two kids to draw cherubim on the back wall of the temple set. **Read 1 Kings 6:27-28 on page 372 of the Spark Bible for some inspiration.**

Perform the skit:

Have the work crews take their places on stage. Have Chris and Sol just outside of the temple to begin. Have all other kids sit in the audience. **King Solomon’s temple was known for its stunning beauty. Let’s join Chris and Sol for a guided tour of This New Temple!**

After the skit:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **What part of Solomon’s temple would you have liked to have seen?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions: **What did Solomon put inside the temple to welcome God’s presence?** (*Ark of the Covenant*) **Was God pleased with the temple?** (*yes*) Invite kids to read 1 Kings 5:15-16 on pages 370-371 in their Spark Bibles. **What do you think it was like to help build the temple? Did everyone do the same job?** (*no*) **Each of us has something different we can do for God. God chooses me to help.**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

---

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! What did Solomon want to build?** (*a temple for God*) **Who helped?** (*many workers*) **God was pleased with the temple and lived among the people. I may never build a temple like Solomon did, but God chooses me to help. What are some ways you can help God?** Allow kids to respond.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

---

Invite kids to stand and hold hands. **At the end of the prayer we'll raise our hands and shout, "Go team!"**

**Dear God, you have such mighty plans. Thank you for choosing me to help. Show me where I can help this week. I am proud to be on your team. (*pause*) Go team! Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** We worship God!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Solomon Builds the Temple Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama! What does *worship* mean?** Allow kids to respond. **What is your favorite part of the worship services at our church? Today we're reading about a new place built for worshipping God.**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to each of the younger kids. Help kids find Solomon Builds the Temple on pages 136-139. Direct the older kids to find 1 Kings 6 on pages 371-372 in their Spark Bibles. **King Solomon was King David's son. Solomon wanted to build a house for God called a *temple*. Use the blocks to build a temple while you listen to the story.** Invite older volunteers to read the following passages before and after you read the story.

- 1 Kings 6:11-14
- 1 Kings 6:37-38

**Let's review.** Point to the picture on page 137 of the Spark Story Bible. **Who built a temple for God?** (*King Solomon*) **What kinds of materials were used to build the temple?** (*stone, cedar wood, gold*) Direct the older kids to find 1 Kings 6:12 on page 371 of their Spark Bibles. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible sticker

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Blocks  
Pencils

of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. **Where did God promise to stay?** (*among the people*) **What do you think worship services were like at Solomon's temple?** Allow kids to respond. **Inside, outside, new, or old building, no matter where we worship, God is there. We worship God!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### This Is the Temple That Solomon Built

---

**Set Up:** Use tape to outline a designated area where the temple will be built. Be sure there is room on either side of the area for five groups of kids to stand. Place the supplies in an area where kids can create with them. Make several copies of the script.

#### Activity Instructions

Before the story:

Introduce the story format to the kids. **There is a type of story called a progressive story, where the story is told piece by piece. Each piece of the story builds upon the pieces that came before it. We're going to tell the story Solomon Builds the Temple as a progressive story. We'll also create and use props to build our own version of the temple as we tell the story.**

1. Divide kids into five groups.
  - a. Give each group a copy of the story script.
  - b. **Each group will be responsible for reading a verse during the story, creating a prop or props that corresponds with your verse and adding your prop(s) to the temple during your part of the story.**
  - c. Help kids decide who will do what part(s) in their group.
2. Show kids the taped area where they will build the temple. **Whatever props you create will need to fit inside this area.**
3. Invite kids to use the supplies to create their props.
  - a. Stone Foundation—**Which stones/bricks look like they would make a good foundation? Where and how will you put them in the temple? Do you need to do anything to the stones?**
  - b. Wood—**Which pieces of wood will you use? How will they be arranged? Will different pieces be used for different parts of the temple? Will you use anything else beside wood for the floors or doors?**
  - c. Carvings—**How can you create designs that look like they have been**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

#### Supplies

Cardboard boxes (assorted sizes)  
Gold fabric (bedding, curtains, scarves, etc.)  
Wood scraps (some cedar)  
Flat stones or bricks  
Tissue paper (yellow or gold)  
Roll paper  
Scissors  
Glue sticks  
Tape  
Markers or crayons  
This Is the Temple That Solomon Built Script (page 99)

**carved into the wood? What are some materials you will use? What kinds of designs will you create? Where will you place them in the temple?**

d. Gold—**How will you show gold covering the inside walls of the temple?**

**What supplies will you use? How will you add them to the temple?**

e. Ark of the Covenant—**Choose a box to create the Ark of the Covenant with. What other supplies will you use? Look on page 139 of the Spark Story Bible for inspiration if you wish. Where will you place the Ark in the temple?**

4. Invite kids to practice reading the story.

a. **Practice reading your verse together. Read it at a pace that allows your prop to be added to the temple during your verse.**

b. **After your verse is read, you will read the underlined words again, after each new verse is added to the story. Everyone will read the line, "All in the temple that Solomon built," together at the end of each verse.** Demonstrate how this works.

Perform the story:

Have the readers and temple builders stand together in their groups according to the order of the script. Be sure everyone has a clear view of the temple area. Invite all of the other kids to sit in the audience. **King Solomon wanted a magnificent temple built for the Lord where everyone could come and worship God. This is how that temple was built.** Begin the story.

Following the story:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **Did the temple turn out how you imagined it would?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **Who did Solomon build the temple for? (God) Was God happy with the temple? (yes) Do you need a fancy temple, or at least a church building, to worship God? God appreciates when we set aside special places for worship, but God invites us to worship anywhere. Worship is more about what we do than where we are. We worship God.**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

---

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! We told a progressive story today. Who built the original temple? (King Solomon) King Solomon used fancy wood, stones, and lots of gold. Was God pleased? (yes) God lived among God's people, and they worshiped God in the temple. Just like Solomon, we worship God. Where can you worship God?** Allow kids to respond.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

---

Invite kids to stand in a circle. **I'll start our prayer by saying something to praise God. Then we'll go around the circle, and you can praise God in your own words. At the end, we'll all shout, "Amen!"**

**Dear God,**

**You are our wonderful creator!** Go around the circle.

**Amen!**

# This New Temple Skit Script

*Chris and Sol begin outside the temple while the work crews are putting on the finishing touches.*

**Sol:** Hi, everyone, and welcome back to another edition of This New Temple. We've been working on this particular temple for about seven years, and I believe it's just about finished. Let's join our construction crew supervisor, Chris.

**Chris:** Well, Sol, you're right. The crews are putting the finishing touches on their work, and we hope to be wrapped up by the end of the day. Would you like to see inside?

**Sol:** We sure would.

**Chris:** Right this way.

*Chris and Sol make their way to where the stonemasons are working.*

**Chris:** You see here the finest, smoothest stones carved from the local quarry. The stonemasons put each one in place by hand and are now polishing them to a smooth, shiny finish.

**Sol:** It must have made quite a racket, cutting through all of that stone outside.

**Chris:** All of the stone was hand cut at the quarry, so it didn't disturb the Lord.

**Sol:** Amazing! But what do we have going on over here?

*Sol points and both Sol and Chris walk over to the woodcutters.*

**Chris:** The woodcutters have been busy laying the floor, assembling the spiral staircase, and hanging the doors. They had a little trouble getting the stairs all the way up to the third floor, but they tell me that's all worked out now.

**Sol:** Good thing! I see a combination of cedar, cypress, and olivewood's been used in the construction of the temple. But who's responsible for all of the intricate carvings in the wood?

*Sol and Chris walk over to look at the work of the woodcarvers.*

**Chris:** That would be the work of our expert woodcarvers. Check out the fine details of their intricate designs and beautiful flowers!

**Sol:** Wow! I bet God's pleased with the beauty of this work! Speaking of beauty, look at all of the gold leaf! The place is covered in it!

*Chris and Sol walk over for a closer look at the work done by the goldsmiths.*

**Sol:** This is high-quality gold. It seems no expense was spared in the construction of this temple!

**Chris:** You're right! In fact, the goldsmiths are just about to bring in the final piece that will make the temple complete. Would you like to see it?

**Sol:** Of course!

*The goldsmiths carry in the Ark of the Covenant and set it near the back wall. All of the other crews exit the stage.*

**Sol:** Now the temple is complete.

**Chris:** I can already sense God's presence.

**Sol:** It's clear that God is pleased with the handiwork on this temple, and so am I. So, we'll say good-bye for now. Be sure to join us next time for another episode of This New Temple!

# This Is the Temple That Solomon Built Script

**Leader:** This is the temple that Solomon built.

## **Everyone**

All in the temple that Solomon built!

## **Group 1**

This is the stone cut from the quarry,  
that many men cut and carefully carried,  
that formed the foundation.

## **Group 2**

This is the wood cut from the trees,  
that allowed doorways and floors to be created with ease,  
that covered the stones.

## **Group 3**

These are the carvings that took many hours,  
of fancy designs and beautiful flowers,  
that were carved in the wood.

## **Group 4**

This is the gold in sheets wide and tall,  
that were layered and formed over each inside wall,  
that covered designs.

## **Group 5**

And this is the Ark so beautifully made,  
and inside the temple was carefully laid,  
surrounded by gold!

