

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<b>Lower Elementary</b>		
<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God made all things good.</p> <p><b>WITH MY FIVE SENSES:</b> Kids use their five senses to learn about the materials used to build the temple.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> None</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> With My Five Senses Recording Sheet (page 133), heavy paper or cards, tape, writing utensils, magnifying glasses, wood, tile, stone, bells, chimes, hand-held rhythm instruments, cotton balls, ribbon or string, balloons, scented oils or flavored extracts, bread or crackers, grape juice in a pitcher, small cups, pieces of marble, velvet, satin, bandannas</p>
<b>Upper Elementary</b>		
<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> We can build amazing things with God's help.</p> <p><b>THE DOMINO EFFECT:</b> Kids play with dominoes and learn about inertia.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Building blocks, a basket or box, an open space on the floor or a large worktable</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Dominoes, a beach ball, a large open space</p>
<b>All Kids</b>		
<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> We can do great things with God's help.</p> <p><b>LET'S FIND OUT!:</b> Kids compare ancient and modern building materials.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> None</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> A guest speaker from the field of architecture or construction, simple tools (hammer, screwdriver, level, chisel, metal tape measure), assorted types of materials (wood, brick, tile, marble), whiteboard or chart paper; markers; masking tape, index cards, pencils</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:** God made all things good.

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, everyone! I'm glad to see you at our Science Workshop today. Do you all have your special eyes with you today? Good! We're going to play a game of "I Spy" and look around us to see all the good things God has made. Here are the rules for our game:**

1. **Everyone will get a chance to be the leader.**
2. **Usually the person who guesses correctly will be the leader for the next round. But we will make sure that everyone gets a turn to lead, even if they aren't the first guesser.**
3. **You have to "spy" something that you can see in our room.**
4. **When you're ready, you say: "I spy, with my little eye, something good that God made!"**

Take the lead and start this game, spying something inside the classroom or perhaps one of the kids, for example: I spy, with my little eye, something good that God made, and it is wearing a blue striped shirt. Make sure that all of the kids get a chance to be the leader. Then gather together to close out the game.

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

**It's fun to think about all of the good things that God made in our world, isn't it?  
Thanks for sharing our game today.**

**Does anyone know the story of Solomon building the temple? Let's read it!** Pass out Spark Story Bibles, assist kids in finding page 136, Solomon Builds the Temple. Read Solomon Builds the Temple out loud to the kids. **What kind of building details does this passage tell us about?** Encourage kids to review the list of details, which include specifics about the types of materials used.

**The Bible tells us about the kinds of materials used to build the temple. Today we're going to use the five senses that God gave us to explore what some of these materials might have been like. Remember, God made all things good, and we can use our senses to remind us of that.**

## Activate Faith (2 minutes)

### With My Five Senses . . .

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#### Set Up:

Make enough copies of the With My Five Senses Recording Sheet so that each kid has one. Write the words *See, Hear, Smell, Taste, Touch* on heavy paper or index cards. Set up stations on tables or desks around the room designated for each of the senses, and tape a card indicating each sense on the wall above it. Place the materials for each sense on the tables:

- See—magnifying glasses and pieces of wood, tile, and stone
- Hear—assorted bells, chimes, and hand-held rhythm instruments
- Smell—Pour drops of the scented oils or extracts on one cotton ball per balloon. Push the cotton balls into the balloons and blow them up, then tie a piece of ribbon or string to them. Hang from the ceiling or a bulletin board by the ribbon or string, with the balloon hanging down at kid level for them to smell.
- Taste—bread or crackers, grape juice in a pitcher, small cups
- Touch—pieces of marble, tile, wood, velvet, satin, and bandannas (You can have the kids wear the bandanna as a blindfold over their eyes to really help them focus on touching, rather than seeing the items.)

*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

*Before using latex items (such as balloons) in an activity, always check with caregivers for kids with serious allergic reactions. Substitute materials if necessary.*

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

With My Five Senses  
Recording Sheet (page 133),  
1 per kid  
Heavy paper or index cards  
Tape  
Writing utensils  
Magnifying glasses  
Wood  
Tile  
Stone  
Bells  
Chimes  
Hand-held rhythm  
instruments  
Cotton balls  
Ribbon or string  
Balloons  
Scented oils or flavored  
extracts  
Bread or crackers  
Grape juice in a pitcher  
Small cups  
Pieces of marble  
Velvet  
Satin  
Bandannas

## Activity Instructions

Here are some recording sheets for us to use. Let's read together: **"With my five senses I see, I hear, I smell, I taste, I touch—everything good that God made!"** I've set up some stations for us to explore. I'd like you to take your recording sheet and a writing utensil and, after you explore what is at the stations, draw or write your thoughts in the boxes.

You may want to walk the kids through each station and explain what they should do there, especially the smell station with the balloons. **When you smell, can you name what you smell? Write your ideas down on your recording sheet.**

Allow time for the kids to try each station and record their answers. When they are done, talk about how their senses helped them learn something about all of the materials Solomon may have used in building the temple.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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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.

**Great job using your senses to explore and learn more about God's world!**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

### Prayer Time

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**Come and join me in a prayer circle! Let's use our five fingers to help us pray and thank God for all that God does for us. I'll start, and then you add your prayers if you like.**

Hold up one hand with all fingers spread apart.

**Dear God,**

**We want to thank you for all that you do for us each day and for the many blessings you give us. We especially thank you for:**

(thumb)

**Our friends and families,**

(first finger)

**Our homes and apartments,**

(second finger)

**Good food and good exercise to keep our bodies healthy,**

(third finger)

**Faithful people who help us learn more about you,**

(fourth finger)

**This holy place where we can come to worship you.**

**Amen!**



**Workshop Focus:** We can build amazing things with God's help.

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

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Solomon Builds the Temple Storytelling

Make sure you have more than enough blocks for each of the kids to be able to use several. Put the blocks into the box or basket.

Welcome the kids as they arrive and offer the basket of blocks to them to choose several. Have them hold onto the blocks until everyone has arrived.

**Alright, it looks like everyone is here today! I'm so glad you are part of our group.** Pass out Spark Bibles, and ask kids to turn to page 371. Select volunteers to read 1 Kings 6 out loud, one paragraph each. Invite kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice in the margin. **Wow, this is kind of a long story, with a lot of details! Close your Bibles, and let's see how much we remember about Solomon building the temple. I'd like you to share what you know with us in this way: when you have something to add to the story, you can add a block, and we will see how high we can build a structure! I'll start by putting these blocks down for the base—and I will say that this story about Solomon is found in the book of 1 Kings. Who would like to go next?**

Encourage the kids to add their blocks to the growing structure, sharing one thing they remember about the story of Solomon, his faithfulness to God, God's

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Building blocks  
A basket or box  
An open space on the floor or  
a large worktable

promises, or the building materials, facts, and figures. Try to keep going as long as the kids have blocks and time permits. If time allows, let the kids find the story of Solomon in their Bibles and add a sticker if they haven't already done so.

**Wow, great job! You all know a lot about the story of Solomon, and together we built a great structure.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### The Domino Effect

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**Set Up:** Clear a space on the floor to build the domino effect. Familiarize yourself with the theory of inertia. Inertia, Newton's first law of motion, states: a resting object tends to stay at rest, and a moving object tends to continue moving with the same speed and in the same direction unless affected by an external force. All objects will continue moving (in motion) unless something stops them. All objects will continue stopping (not moving) unless something moves them. This behavior of objects is known as *inertia*.

#### Activity Instructions

**Have you ever lined dominoes up to get a domino effect? It's fun! There are competitions to see who can create the coolest domino effect—people have even covered entire gym floors with dominoes to try and beat a record doing this.**

Explain the term *inertia* to the kids and demonstrate with a simple object such as a beach ball. **When I set the ball here, it isn't moving. When I give it a little push, it moves. We're going to work together to build our own domino effect and see how the dominoes are affected by movement.**

Choose a starting point to begin lining the dominoes up, and have the kids work together to determine the path their dominoes will take. Line them up on end approximately 2-3 inches (5-7 cm) apart. If kids are not familiar with the outcome of a domino effect, make a small version of a dozen or so dominoes, and show them how it works.

Once the dominoes are all in place, draw straws or flip a coin to see who will give the end domino a slight push to start the process. **Wow! Isn't that cool? We can build amazing things with God's help.**

If there is time, the kids may want to try creating this effect several times more.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Dominoes  
A beach ball

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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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.

**God always helps us, and with God we can do some pretty amazing things! Solomon built a great temple as a place to worship God. What great things will we do in our lives for God?**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

Dominoes or other blocks

## Prayer Time

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**I'd like everyone to take a block or two as part of our closing prayer today. We're going to build a tower of prayer by adding a block with every prayer request, concern, or thing that we want to thank God for. I'll start and I hope you'll add some blocks, too.**

Begin the prayer, and, as you thank God for something, lay a block down. You might want to add the first four blocks to begin a solid foundation. Then invite the kids to join you by adding their prayer thoughts, requests, or thanks to the tower, one block at a time. When the kids are done, close by praying:

**Thank you, God, for all of the blessings you give us and many, many more things that we can't even begin to count.  
Amen.**



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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Solomon Builds the Temple Storytelling

**Welcome to our Science Workshop today! I'm really glad to see you all here. We've been talking about and reading about Solomon, the man who built a great temple in Bible times. What do you remember about temples?** Allow time for kids to add their thoughts and ideas. Pass out Spark Story Bibles to the younger kids, and assist in finding Solomon Builds the Temple, beginning on page 136. Pass out Spark Bibles to older kids, invite them to turn to page 371. Read 1 Kings 6 out loud.

**A temple is a holy place, a place where we can be with other people who come especially to worship and spend time with God. Our church is kind of like that, isn't it? We can come to church with other people and worship God.**

**You might know this silly rhyme about the church—let's try it together and then add some verses of our own. Interlace your fingers together, except for the index fingers. Point them up and have them come together at the tips. "Here's the church and here's the steeple." Then you spread your palms apart and wiggle your fingers while saying: "Open the doors and see all the people."**

**What could we add to make a second or third verse?** Work together with the kids

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
None

to brainstorm what you might add—are the people leaving the church and going out to share the good news? Are the people leaving the church and going home to pray?

Once you have a second or third verse, add it to the first and say this rhyme altogether.

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Let's Find Out!

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#### Set Up:

If you can, make arrangements to have a guest speaker from the architecture or building professions. Explain to the guest that you have been learning about when Solomon built the temple and would like to help the kids understand and explore different types of building materials, simple tools, and other parts of the building process. Invite your guest to bring any materials, tools, or supplies he or she uses regularly, such as blueprints or a tool belt with tools. Divide the whiteboard or chart paper into two columns, one labeled Solomon's Building Supplies and one labeled Building Supplies for Today.

#### Activity Instructions

**Today we're going to continue learning more about when Solomon built the temple so long ago during Bible times. Let's start by turning to page 371, in our Spark Bibles, and reading over the list of materials and supplies that Solomon needed. Every time someone is going to start a building project, he or she needs to make a list of what is needed. Hmmm . . . I wonder if the list of materials and supplies Solomon needed is anything like a list of what we would need today.**

Invite the kids to read through the lists in the Bible story, writing down the things they read on the index cards. Then have them shout out the kinds of supplies or materials needed and write these down in the column labeled Solomon's Building Supplies.

**Now let's think about the kinds of things we would need today to build a building or temple. I'll write those things on the chart, too, and we can compare them.**

After writing the second list, ask for a volunteer to come up and circle the items that are on both lists. **How many similar things are there? What things are different?**

Depending on if you have a guest speaker or not, and how much he or she is willing to share, you could take this activity further. Try comparing prices of materials. Or use the measuring tape to measure out the lengths and widths described in the Bible and note them on the floor with masking tape. Or even weigh several bricks, stones, or tiles and multiply that number to estimate how many were really used in the temple that Solomon built.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

#### Supplies

A guest speaker from the field of architecture or construction

Simple tools such as a hammer, screwdriver, level, chisel, and metal tape measure

Assorted types of materials, wood, brick, tile, marble

Whiteboard or chart paper and markers

Masking tape

Index cards

Pencils

**Our discovery of building materials is interesting, isn't it? Solomon had a lot of vision and energy to plan and build such a great place for people to worship God. It's great to know that, like Solomon, God will help us, too!**

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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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 to all of you for being here today! I'm really glad when we can learn more about God and God's word together in this holy place.**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
Chart paper  
Markers

### Prayer Time

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Divide the kids into small groups, making sure to have a mix of older and younger kids in each group. Give each group chart paper and markers and have them work together to create a prayer for the closing. Give them this sentence to complete for their part of the prayer: "**Thank you, Lord God, for helping me to \_\_\_\_\_.**" They can write or draw the missing piece.

After they are done, quickly tape the pieces of paper together along the sides and tape or tack them on a bulletin board or wall in the classroom. Gather together and read the prayer aloud together. Finish with a hearty **Amen!**



# With My Five Senses Recording Sheet

## With My Five Senses...

I see...

I smell...

I hear...

I touch...

I taste...

**...everything good that God made!**

