

GOD'S BIG PLAN

King Solomon 1 Kings 2-11

Supporting Scriptures: 1 Chronicles 22, 29:23-25; 2 Chronicles 1-7; Proverbs, Ecclesiastes; Acts 7:46-47



Lesson Goals: To see that God keeps His promises.
To see that only God deserves glory.
To see the importance of following God.

Scripture Memory Do everything the Lord your God requires. Live the way he wants you to. . . . Then you will have success in everything you do. You will succeed everywhere you go. 1 Kings 2:3 (NIRV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as “He said. . . She said” or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson: Let’s review what we have learned so far about God’s Big Plan. (Review the previous stories, encouraging more and more students to share.)

After David became king and was living in the palace, he realized that God was still living among the people in a tent. What did King David want to do for God? (To build a permanent house for Him.) Instead of David building God a house, David’s son, the next king, would build God’s house. But God shared something amazing with David. What was it? (That God wanted David’s family to rule forever.) David’s son would also be king. His grandchildren would, too, if they obeyed God. But that was just the beginning. God promised David that the Promised One - the Savior - would one day come from David’s family.

When David grew old and knew that he wouldn’t live much longer, he called for his son, Solomon. It was time for Solomon to become king, and David wanted to share something with him.

READ: 1 Kings 2:1-4 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Solomon listened to his father’s words. They were important to him because they were the last thing David shared with him before he died. Solomon loved God. He obeyed God, just like his father had reminded him to. Solomon made an offering to God and on the same night that he made the offering, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said, “Ask me for whatever it is that you want, Solomon.” Solomon replied, “God, you loved my father David and it was your love for him that made me king after him. But I’m young, God, and I don’t really know what to do. There are so many people to rule, just like you promised Abraham there would be. Give me a heart that understands, so I can do the right thing and take care of them.” God was happy because Solomon had asked for wisdom, a heart that understands, instead of asking to live a long time or for a lot of money. So, God gave Solomon what he asked for. Solomon had chosen well. His choice wasn’t selfish. Solomon chose to ask for an understanding heart because he wanted to rule his people well. God made Solomon so wise that his wisdom couldn’t even be measured, just like the sand on a beach. Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. He knew all about plants and animals, and people came from everywhere to listen to him. God also gave Solomon what he *didn’t* ask for. God made Solomon very rich and honorable - more rich and honorable and wise than anyone living at that time. And God promised, “If you will obey me like your dad did, then I will also let you live a long life.”

When David was king, God promised him that his son would build a house for God. The place had already been chosen and David had begun collecting wood, gold and silver. When Solomon had been on the throne for three years, he began to build God's house, the Temple. He built the Temple in Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah, which means "chosen by God." Mount Moriah is also where Abraham took his son Isaac to sacrifice him and where God provided a ram in Isaac's place.

The temple King Solomon built for God was a stone building - 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had narrow, high windows. All of the stone walls were covered with carved wood that were then covered with pure gold. A wall was built in the back, 30 feet into the room. The ark of the covenant would be put there. King Solomon made two gold cherubim to go there. Each one was 15 feet high and wide. When they were placed in the Most Holy Place, their wings touched each other over the ark of the covenant and their outside wings touched the walls! Two huge, bronze columns were made and placed in front of the Temple. They had carved lilies and pomegranates all around the top of them. A bowl was made to hold water. It looked like a lily and sat on top of 12 carved bulls. It held 11,500 gallons of water! Solomon also made a new altar, table and lampstands to be used inside the Temple. Solomon used things that his father had prepared. It took seven years to complete the Temple, but everything was done as God wanted it. And then, the ark of the covenant was brought to the temple. Solomon and all of the people gathered for a dedication service. Solomon said, "Lord, you are the God of Israel. There is no one like you. You keep your promises. But will you really live on earth, here in this building I've built when the heavens cannot even hold you?" Solomon made an offering on the altar. He prayed to God. When he had finished praying, fire came from heaven and burned up the offering. Then God's glory filled the temple and the people bowed down saying, "God is good. His faithful love never ends."

What a beautiful time. The people were glad and their hearts were full of joy. God wanted to live among His people and He wanted their obedience. But, instead of continuing to follow God, Solomon turned away from God and began to worship other gods. He didn't follow God with all of his heart, so in the end he was nothing like his father David. God had promised that with Solomon's obedience would come continued blessings. With his disobedience came the promise of an end to David's family on the throne. For David's sake, this wouldn't happen until after Solomon died. Solomon's disobedience would also lead to the kingdom being divided. The nation that had come out of Egypt together, had walked through the desert together and who moved into the promised land together would be divided. And it would happen because of Solomon's disobedience.

Review:

Let's review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

Things were good in the beginning. King Solomon loved God and had the awesome opportunity to build a house for God. But later in his life, Solomon disobeyed a little. That disobedience finally led to Solomon turning completely away from God. How could that happen if God lived among them? It could happen because God gives us a choice to obey or disobey.

Do you remember King Solomon wondering how God would live in the Temple he had built when the heavens couldn't even hold him? Later in God's Word we read that God no longer lives in temples made by human hands. God doesn't live in a building. He wants to take up residence in you! You can be God's temple. He longs to make His home in you, but you have a choice. God will not force Himself on you. He gently draws you to Him. Will you choose Him?

During the Temple dedication, Solomon was sure that God had kept His promises. Do you believe that He kept His promise to send His One and only Son? Will you follow Him?

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 21 • Showdown at Mount Carmel
1 Kings 17-18

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: "I Like to Go to Church" to the tune of "A-Hunting We Will Go"

I like to go to church, I like to go to church.

I like the happy songs we sing, I like to go to church.

SHARE: King David had once been a small, young boy. He had killed a giant. King David had sons. One of them was named Solomon. David taught Solomon to obey God. In the beginning, Solomon listened to his father's words. Solomon loved God. And God promised, "If you will obey me like your dad did, then your sons and grandsons will be king after you."

When David was king, he wanted to build God a house. (Touch your fingers over your head forming a roof.) God promised him that his son would build that house. The temple King Solomon built for God was big. (Stretch out your arms.) It was made of stone. It had small windows up high. The inside of God's house was covered with pure gold. Solomon made new things for the house of God. There were huge angels and columns, new table and lampstands. The people called this wonderful place the Temple. It took seven years to complete the Temple. When everything was done, it was just as God wanted it. Solomon and all of the people gathered for a dedication service. They sang and prayed. Solomon said, "Lord, you are the God of Israel. There is no one like you. You keep your promises." God's glory filled the temple like a cloud and the people bowed down (everyone bow) saying, "God is good. His faithful love never ends. God is good. His faithful love never ends."

What a beautiful time. The people were glad and their hearts were full of joy. God wanted to live among His people. He lived in the house that King Solomon built.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for loving me.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Make an acrostic with the word “success.” Review and talk about the memory verse. Have your students show their understanding of what true success is by filling in the acrostic.
- Make a model of the Temple. A shoe box gives an idea of the shape. Read 1 Kings 6-7 for a guide. All told, the footprint of the temple was about the size of a basketball court.
- Practice Temple Mathematics. Have your students read through 1 Kings 6-7. Answer the following questions:
 - 1 Kings 6:2 What was the Area of the Temple?
Answer: Area=length x width; $A=90 \times 30$; $A=2,700$ sq. feet
 - 1 Kings 6:2, 16 How big was the Most Holy Room?
Answer: width=30 feet; length= $90-60=30$ (see verses 19-20)
 - 1 Kings 6:23-26 When the cherubs were placed wing to wing, how wide were they?
Answer: $15+15=30$ feet wide
 - 1 Kings 7:15-16 Pillars and tops, how high was each column?
Answer: 27 feet high + $7 \frac{1}{2}$ feet high = $34 \frac{1}{2}$ feet high
 - 1 Kings 7:23 What was the bowl’s radius? It’s circumference? It’s area?
Answer: If diameter is 15 feet; then radius is $7 \frac{1}{2}$ feet.
Circumference= 45 feet
Area= $(\pi)r^2 = (3.14)7.5^2=176.625$
 - 1 Kings 7:25 Make an array showing the placement of the 12 bulls
Answer: 3 (# of bulls) x 4 (# of sides)
 - 1 Kings 7:26 If a bathtub holds about 60 gallons of water, approximately how many bathtubs full of water would be needed to fill up the huge bowl?
Answer: $11,500/60=\text{approx. } 192$ OR $12,000/60=\text{approx } 200$
- King Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. Read a few of the following and discuss them: Proverbs 1:1-7; Proverbs 22:1; Proverbs 30:5; Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14
- For adults or older students: Talk about the details of King Solomon’s disobedience. 1 Kings 11:1-4 tells us that Solomon loved many women. Solomon wrote Proverbs 31 during the first few years of his reign. What could have been different if he had reviewed it later in life?