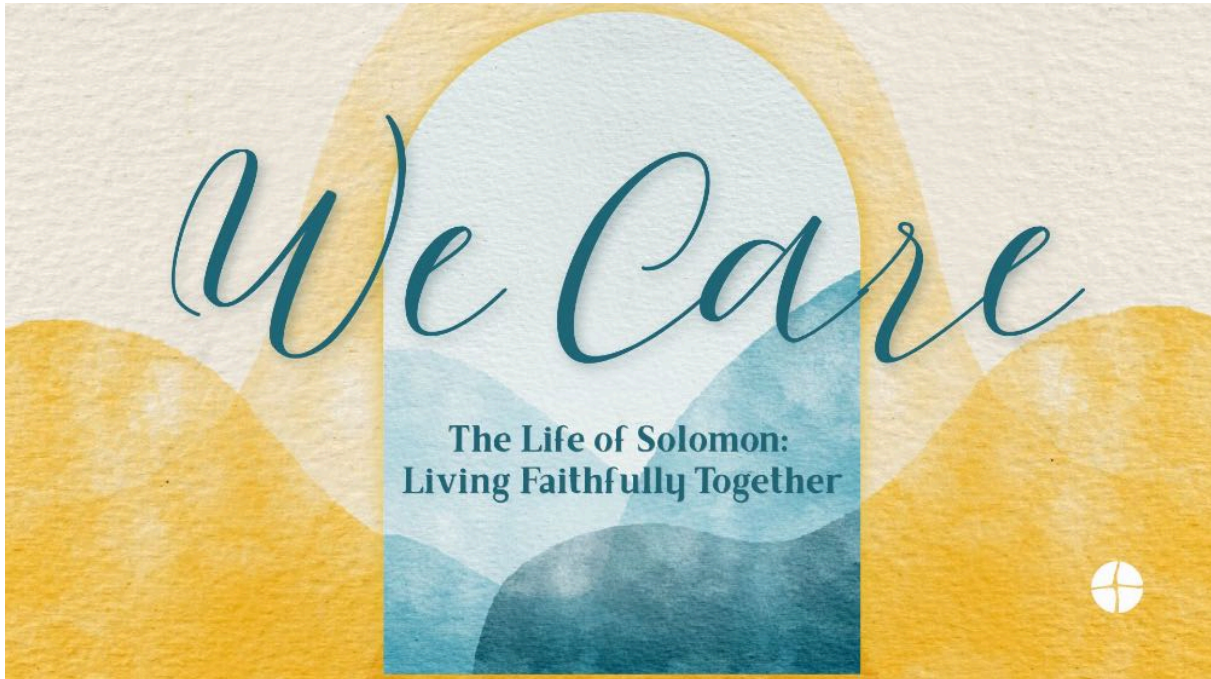


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## Worship Set and Sermon Notes



### Worship Set

Praise Is The Highway

God I'm Just Grateful

Great Are You Lord

Hymn Of Heaven

### We Care The Life of Solomon: Living Faithfully Together Built Together

1 Kings 5:1–5; 8:22–30, 54–61

We're in week two of WE CARE: The Life of Solomon, following one question through his whole story: How do we faithfully live the life God has entrusted to us? Last week Solomon asked God for a lev shomea — a hearing heart — instead of riches or power, and God gave it to him. This week we watch him start to use it. Solomon is about to build the Temple, and before he lifts a single stone, we discover that almost nothing about this project starts with him. It's all been given.

### Before We Build, We Receive

Before Solomon builds anything, God has already placed a relationship in his life — Hiram of Tyre reaches out first, "for he had always been on

friendly terms with David" (1 Kings 5:1). He's given a rest he didn't fight for: "the Lord my God has given me peace on every side" (v. 4). He's given a vision he didn't originate — a promise God made to David years earlier. And he's given the wisdom he asked for just last week. Solomon didn't generate any of this. He received it.

That's true for us too. Whatever we're building — a career, a family, a future — so much of what made it possible was given to us long before we ever started building. Rest isn't the reward for our work; it's what makes the work possible in the first place. What has God placed in your hands that you've started treating like something you earned?

### **We Build Together for His Presence**

When it's time to actually build, nobody has everything the Temple needs — but everybody has something. Cedar comes from Hiram. Labor comes from Israel. Skill comes from a craftsman named Hiram. At the dedication, Solomon reminds everyone the Temple was never meant to contain God (8:27) — it was meant to be a place where all people, including foreigners far from Israel, could turn toward Him and know His name (8:41–43, 60).

What God places in our hands was never meant to end with us. But Solomon's story also shows us the crack underneath it all — he compelled thousands into forced labor to build it. Even our best building can quietly become about us. That's exactly where the good news breaks in: someone greater than Solomon is here (Matthew 12:42). Jesus gives rest first, then invites us to build (Matthew 11:28), and Paul reminds us we give freely, not under pressure, because "God loves a person who gives cheerfully" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Through Jesus, we don't just build a place for God's presence — we become a people who carry it (Ephesians 2:19–22).

### **This Week**

Before we build, we receive. What God places in our hands was never meant to stay there — it's meant to be offered for the sake of others. Because of Jesus, we don't have to build our worth or prove ourselves. We're free to open our hands.

### **Take the Next Step**

Let's become a church where everyone brings something. God has placed gifts, experiences, resources, and influence in each of our hands. When we bring what He has given us together, He uses us to bring the power of

His presence into the lives of others. Ask this week: "What has God placed in my hands that He wants me to bring?" Then take one step to offer it.