



LEADER PREP PAGE 1

2s/3s

Sunday, October 4th

FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Dwells with His People

SCRIPTURE: [1 Kings 8](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Psalm 46:10a](#)

As I said goodbye to my daughter and watched her walk away, about to begin her first day at a new high school, I begged God, "Please be with her," to which God instantly replied, "I am always with her." I felt silly. I had asked God the wrong thing. I prayed once more, "God, help my daughter to know that You are with her today."

How different would life be if we lived each day like we knew that God was with us, that His Holy Spirit dwells within us, that God walks where we walk and goes where we go? What would you share with God? Would you pray more expectantly? Would you worry less? Would you sing a little louder? Act a little bolder?

From the beginning, it was always God's intention to be a God who is near to us, a God who is accessible, a God we can approach. Read [1 Kings 8](#), paying attention to Solomon's posture toward God as God draws near to His people and lets His glory fill the temple. How did Solomon react? How did he pray? How did he praise? What can we learn from Solomon's prayer of dedication in verses 22–53? How can we live fully aware of God's presence dwelling within us?

—Ingrid Griggs

Children's Ministry Leader

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LEADER PREP PAGE 2

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BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Solomon, David's son, had the honor of building the Lord's temple. David wanted to build the temple, but because he had shed so much blood, God didn't allow it. Instead, Solomon, who reigned during peacetime, was the one to build a temple for the Lord.

WHAT?

During the dedication of the temple, the ark of the covenant was brought in. The ark was a box covered in gold, representing God's footstool. It linked God's presence in the temple with His presence in the heavenly realm.

WHERE?

The ark was placed in the Most Holy Place, the inner room of the temple where God's presence dwelled. No one was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place except for the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement.

WHEN?

Solomon spent seven years building the temple, conscripting work from his own people and from King Hiram of Tyre. It was built according to the instructions God gave David ([1 Chronicles 28](#)). The temple was filled with gold, cedar, and beautiful carvings.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The temple was a way for God to dwell among His people. This would take on new meaning when the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us ([John 1:14](#)). Through Jesus, God showed us His glory, for Jesus is God with us!

Object Lesson: Putting Together Pieces

SUPPLIES: puzzles, magnetic blocks/tiles

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome to church! Today we're going to learn about a man in the Bible named Solomon.

Solomon built a big house for God. God wants to be together with His people. He wants to be with us.

Show the kids the puzzle. **Look at this fun toy. I can take these pieces and find the right spot for them.** Try to fit a piece in the wrong place, then put it in the correct place and say, "Oh, they go together."

Repeat this routine with all the puzzle pieces and let the kids try putting pieces into the puzzle.

Magnetic blocks/tiles may also be used in addition to, or instead of, a puzzle. Demonstrate how the magnetic blocks stick together and let the kids hold them and put them together. **Kind of like how these pieces go together, God wants to be together with us.**

Can you say these words with me? Say, "God is with me" one word at a time and encourage the kids to repeat each word. Repeat the phrase a few times with the kids, slowly and one word at a time.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, toy crown, blocks (gather from shelf), toy tool, [Bible Story Picture](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible. It's about a person named Solomon.

Encourage the kids to say, "Solomon." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Solomon.**

Use the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Use the supplies to act out the story as you read it. Whenever you say, "God," point up and encourage kids to point up too. Whenever you say, "with," clasp your hands together in front of your chest and encourage kids to hold their hands together in front of them too.

God (point up) made a promise that Solomon would build a temple. A temple is a big house for God (point up). Solomon became king of the land. Put on crown and point to it. **Solomon was king during a wonderful time.**

Solomon and his people built a beautiful temple. The temple was a great, big house for God (point up). Use a few blocks and a toy tool to build a house-like structure and point to it. **People could come to the temple and worship God (point up). Solomon and the people knew that God (point up) was too big and too great to just live in a house. But they built Him one anyway because God (point up) promised that He would be with (clasp hands together in front of chest) the people. On a very special day, the people gathered at the temple. They were glad and praised God (point up) because God (point up) is so good! Then the glory of God (point up) filled the whole temple, like a cloud. King Solomon knew that God (point up) was with (clasp hands together in front of chest) the people in the temple.**

Many years later, Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross so we could be with (clasp hands together in front of chest) God (point up) too! God (point up) dwells with (clasp hands together in front of chest) us! God (point up) is with (clasp hands together in front of chest) us all the time!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, Kings and Prophets Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—[Psalm 46:10a](#)

Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#). **Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from [Psalm 46:10a](#). Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to [Psalm 46:10a](#) and practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STILL,**—*Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.*
- **AND KNOW**—*Point to your head.*
- **THAT I AM GOD.**—*Point up.*
- **[PSALM 46:10a](#)**—*Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk with God. Can you repeat these words after me? Say the words one or two at a time and give time for the kids to repeat. **God, thank You that You're with us all the time. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you remember that God is always with you. May you have joy because He wants to be with you!

Activity: Come Together

Solomon built the temple—a great, big house for God—so that God and His people could be together. God wants to be together with us too! God is with us all the time! Let's play a game about being together.

Stand in the middle of the room and encourage the kids to spread out. When you call out, "Come together!" invite the kids to come to the middle to be close to you. Each time they gather together, encourage them to say the Wonder Truth with you: God dwells with His people. Then let them spread out again and repeat the game. To make it more challenging, you move to different places and tell the kids to race to you when you say, "Come together!"

Remember that God wants to be close with us, and He's always with us.