

# THE UNWISE WISE KING

Solomon Builds  
the Temple  
1 Kings 6:11–38;  
11:1–11  
967–961 BC

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God is worthy of worship.

### BIBLE VERSE

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! Psalm 95:6

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God is worthy of worship.

### LAW & GOSPEL

In my sin, I turn away from God and worship idols.  
**God dwells within me and all believers through Word and Sacrament, forgiving my sin.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Solomon gathers the supplies and artisans to begin the most important construction project of his reign—building a house for God. Using the very finest materials and most skilled craftsmen, Solomon builds a temple so glorious that none to come after it would ever compare. Later in his life, Solomon's many wives and concubines lead him away from the true God. In His anger, God vows to take the kingdom away from Solomon's descendants.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read 1 Kings 6:11–38; 11:1–11 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read more about Solomon's temple and its furnishings in the articles on pages 541 and 544 of *TLSE*.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Small paper plates; stickers, gems, and other decorations; uncooked dry beans; large craft stick; packaging tape or stapler
- Atlas or maps
- Digital device
- Cardstock, pattern of Solomon's temple (search online), uncooked pasta, acrylic or poster paint, painting supplies
- Graham crackers and frosting or rectangular crackers and cream cheese

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

# LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

## BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

## PRAY

Dear God, thank You for giving us the gift of worship. Help us learn more about Your glory. In Your name we pray. Amen.

## SAY

- Welcome, children! I'm happy you are here to worship Jesus today!**
- Close your eyes and picture in your mind what our church looks like. When Solomon first became king, the Israelites worshiped in a tent! Solomon wanted to build a permanent temple-church for God.**

# LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

## TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

### DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Be a "temple tour guide" for the students, leading them on a "tour" of the classroom as if it were the temple. Move from place to place in your meeting space, using the bold-faced text in the narrative as the basis for your tour; include details directly from the Bible. Guide children in reacting with "oohs" and "ahhs" as you go along.
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Use the students as "tour guides" by splitting up the description of the temple into sections and assigning one child to each section. The "tour guides" can describe their part of the room as students come around. If you want to add more sections or if the students have a particularly strong memory, give them descriptions directly from Scripture.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What did the temple look like?
- What did people do in the temple?
- Where do we worship God? What do we do in God's house?

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- The temple was beautiful, giving the Israelites a tiny taste of what heaven would be like one day. Some designs served to remind the people of the Garden of Eden, where God walked among His perfect creation.
- God's people worshiped God in the temple and made sacrifices to say they were sorry for their sins.
- In God's house, our church, we tell God we are sorry for our sins, and the pastor tells us that God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake. God talks to us in His Word, the Bible, and hears our prayers. He gives us thankful hearts to praise Him through song and music and by giving our offerings.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came to make His dwelling among us. He lived, died, and rose again to be the atonement for our sins.

# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Do the actions with the children as you read the story.

God gave King Solomon a wise heart, just as He promised. King Solomon loved God. One day, he said, “My house is a palace. There are beautiful decorations all around me. My palace shows that I am a rich and powerful king. Our God is mighty and powerful. *(Make muscles.)* He is the King of kings. *(Shape hands on head like a crown.)* But He does not have a beautiful house as I do. We must build a new house for Him, a place where His people can worship Him. It should be the most beautiful building ever built to show that we love and honor God.” Solomon called this church God’s temple. Then, Solomon found many workers who could help to build this beautiful temple-church.

Some of the workers dug big, white stone blocks from the ground to make the outside walls. Other workers traveled to faraway lands to cut cedar trees for boards. Still others carved beautiful pictures of angels, palm trees, and flowers into the cedar board walls.

A man named Hiram made **two huge metal posts to stand by the door of the temple-church. He made pictures of fruits and lilies at the top of the posts.** Other people **wove beautiful curtains.** Others made **gold bowls, gold tables, and gold lamps** for the temple-church. Everyone did what they could to make God’s temple-church beautiful. *(Pretend to make objects.)*

**God’s temple-church had two large rooms. The first room was called the Holy Place,** and only the priests could go in there. The priests were like our pastors today.

**The smaller room in the back was called the Most Holy Place.** Only the high priest could go inside it once a year. The ark of the covenant was in the Most Holy Place. It reminded the people that God was there with them, that He forgave their sins, and that He promised to send a Savior.

Seven years after the workers began, the temple-church was ready. Solomon called the people together. **They brought their offerings to God. Some people played harps. Others sang. King Solomon knelt down in front of the altar.** *(Fold hands and kneel.)* He prayed, “Dear God, You are so wonderful. Watch over Your temple-church all day and all night. Bless these people, Lord. Hear the prayers they say. Forgive their sins. Help them love You and obey You today and always. Amen.”

**The people praised and thanked God for seven days.** *(Show seven fingers.)* They were so happy God had helped them build His beautiful temple-church where they could worship Him.

God invites us to His house, the church, to worship Him too. In God’s house, we tell God we are sorry for our sins, and the pastor tells us that God forgives our sins for Jesus’ sake. God talks to us in His Word, the Bible, and hears our prayers. He gives us thankful hearts to praise Him through song and music and by giving our offerings. Our church is a wonderful place to worship God!

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# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

The time came to build God’s temple—a beautiful building that would show the world that Israel’s great God lived with His people. It was laid out like the tabernacle. Both had **two rooms inside and a large courtyard outside** where God’s people gathered. They listened to God’s words and called on Him with their prayers, hymns, and songs. Outside the temple, Solomon **placed the altar where the animal sacrifices were burned.**

The inside of the temple was a lot like our churches today, but none of the Israelites were allowed to go inside, only the priests and Levites. It had two rooms. **The first room was called the Holy Place.** Here, Solomon placed a **table for burning incense and a beautiful golden lampstand.** Every morning and afternoon, the people watched the priests go inside to burn incense while they prayed outside.

Hanging between this front room and the next was a curtain. **Behind it was the special room called the Most Holy Place. Two huge angels stood in this room, spreading their wings over the ark of the covenant and the two angels on its cover.** Only the high priest could

come into this room one day each year—the Day of Atonement. He would bring blood from sacrificed animals and sprinkle it on the ark so God could forgive the Israelites’ sins.

Solomon gathered all Israel together, and the priests carried the ark into the temple. **Suddenly, a bright cloud filled the temple. God’s people saw He was in the temple, right there among His people.**

As king, Solomon married a number of women from other countries. These arranged marriages often served as a sort of “peace treaty” between that nation and Israel. Unfortunately, many of these foreign wives came with their personal idols or gods. Eventually, these wives and their beliefs in false gods led Solomon away from the true God. He even built altars to these false gods.

The Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel. The same God had appeared to Solomon twice, and still he turned away. Because of Solomon’s turning away and breaking of the covenant, God promised to take the kingdom from Solomon and give it to his servant.

# LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

## Praise Shaker Craft

Decorate the back sides of two small paper plates with markers and stickers. Add gems and other embellishments. Use packaging tape to secure a large craft stick to the inside bottom of one plate. Put the plates together, and staple or tape partway around the edge. Place uncooked dry beans between the plates. Finish stapling or taping the edges. Hold the handle and shake to make sounds. Talk about how we sing and praise God in church.



## Bible Verse Fun

Read from Psalm 95:6: **“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!”** For younger children, shorten the verse to **“Oh come, let us worship . . . the Lord.”** Then sing and do actions to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:  
**If you love to worship Jesus, clap your hands.**  
**If you love to worship Jesus, clap your hands.**  
**If you love to worship Jesus, reach up high, then touch your toes.**  
**If you love to worship Jesus, clap your hands.**



## Sourcing the Temple

Use the Bible and an atlas or online maps to research the source countries for the materials used to build the temple listed in the Bible. Older students could estimate how far the raw materials had to travel in order to reach Jerusalem.



## Temple Craft

Search online for a line drawing of Solomon’s temple. Print copies on cardstock. Set out a variety of shapes of uncooked pasta to glue to the temple. Provide paint shirts, brushes, and acrylic or poster paint for children to paint the noodles for added effect.



## Church Snack

Lean two quarter pieces of graham crackers or two rectangular crackers together to make an A-frame roof. Use frosting or cream cheese to secure the pieces together at the top. Talk about how we call our church building a “church” instead of a “temple.” The church is God’s house, where we come to worship Him and receive His gifts to us.



## Church Walk

Take children to your sanctuary to see how it is decorated. Emphasize the craftsmanship and art (windows, banners, carvings, etc.) and how they remind us of God and His beauty. Walk through other parts of the church building too, explaining how each room or area is used. Talk about how many people use their gifts to make church a place where we can worship God.



## Long-Term Projects

It took seven years to build the temple. Help the students add seven years to their age and talk about what they could be doing to serve the Lord in seven years. Have students draw pictures of themselves in seven years.



# LEAVE

## SAY

God is worthy of worship, and we want to worship God by giving Him our best.

## PRAY

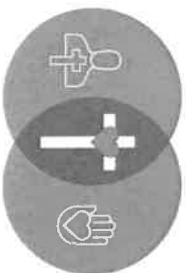
Dear Jesus, thank You for allowing us to come before You in worship. Please keep our hearts focused on praising only You all the days of our lives. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

## THE UNWISE WISE KING

LESSON 14

1 Kings 6:11–38; 11:1–11

GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP.



### CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

#### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God gives me faithful advisers who guide me in the way He would have me go.

#### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can follow and serve God because He strengthens me through His Word and Spirit.

### GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age:

#### ADULT

I can describe how God desires for me to approach Him in worship and why He alone is worthy of that worship.

#### YOUTH

I can explain why God is worthy of my worship and why He wants me to worship Him.

#### ELEMENTARY

I understand that God is worthy of worship.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God wants me to come to His house to worship Him.

### BIBLE VERSE

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Psalms 95:6

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Solomon gathers the supplies and artisans to begin the most important construction project of his reign—building a house for God. Using the very finest materials and most skilled craftsmen, Solomon builds a temple so glorious that none to come after it would ever compare. Later in his life, Solomon's many wives and concubines lead him away from the true God. In His anger, God vows to take the kingdom away from Solomon's descendants.

### TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—As you drive around your community, keep an eye out for different churches. How are they similar? How are they different? What might these similarities and differences mean?
- ▶ *At Mealt ime*—Solomon was led away from the true faith by his foreign wives. Why is it important that husbands and wives share the same beliefs?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Use toy bricks or blocks to build a model of the temple based on the biblical description.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—In your bedtime prayers this evening, pray for all parents to be faithful witnesses to their children.

Oh  
COME,

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THE LORD

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Psalms 95:6

**Leader Devotion LESSON 14**  
**THE UNWISE WISE KING—SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE**  
**1 KINGS 6:11–38; 11:1–11**

**BIBLE TRUTH**

God is worthy of worship.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! Psalm 95:6

**LAW & GOSPEL**

In my sin, I turn away from God and worship idols.

**God dwells within me and all believers through Word and Sacrament, forgiving my sin.**

**DEVOTION**

Even the smartest people sometimes do or say the dumbest stuff. Famous inventor Thomas Edison was so convinced that DC electricity was better than AC that he electrocuted a number of animals—including an elephant—trying vainly to demonstrate the dangers of AC. Elizabeth Fleischmann-Aschheim, an early X-ray radiologist, spent so much time working without protective gear that she died from radiation poisoning.

We fall into the same trap when it comes to spiritual matters. “We dare never take God’s grace lightly, thinking we can sin without consequences. May God the Holy Spirit always keep us focused on our Savior through Word and Sacraments. Jesus did not take us for granted; He saved us with precious grace” (TISB, p. 556).

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, be always near. Keep me from evil, harm, and fear. Amen.

# LESSON 14 OPENING

## THE UNWISE WISE KING

Thanks for coming today. Imagine your house. *Pause and close your eyes for just an instant so the children can see that you are imagining.* There's a living room, one or two bathrooms, the kitchen. I spend most of my time in the living room. Where do you spend most of your time? *Take a few responses.*

Today I need your help. We are going to build a house. First, we need to draw a picture of it. *Take the paper and markers. Use a dry erase board or large book to give you a firmer drawing surface, if needed.* Let's start at the top and work our way down. Let's begin with the chimney. Which color should we use? *Allow the children to draw the chimney, if appropriate. Position it high enough to allow space for the rest of the house.* What comes under the chimney? The roof! *Follow the same procedure used with the chimney.* The second floor of the house comes next. After that, we need bedrooms. How many bedrooms? The rooms need windows, right? *Continue in this manner until the house is finished. Include stairs to the first floor, a kitchen, garage, etc. Be sure to leave space under the first floor of the house for a foundation to be added.*

Wait. It's a beautiful house, but something is missing. Our house has a solid roof, cozy bedrooms, and a large kitchen. Yet it still needs the most important part. What does our house need? *Take a few answers. If the children don't say "foundation," offer a few hints.* I'll give you a hint or two. It goes on the bottom of the house. It's really strong. *Lead them to the correct answer.* Exactly! We need a foundation. Not just any foundation, though. Watch this! *Draw a picture of a Bible at the bottom of the house. For clarity, include a cross and "Holy Bible."* What do you think? Is our house ready?

When people build a house or an apartment building, they don't put a Bible on the bottom as the foundation. Can you guess why I decided to use the Bible as the foundation of our house? *Take a few responses.* Look at the house we drew. It's a nice house. The roof is solid. The rooms are cozy. We can make yummy food in the kitchen. Yet, without the right foundation, the other parts of the house won't work.

Our lives are a little bit like this house. We have our friends. *Point to the chimney to help the children understand the analogy.* We have our family. *Point to the upstairs rooms.* We have school, sports, and hobbies. *Point to the downstairs.* All those things are good. Nevertheless, just like a house, we need the right foundation in our lives. *Set the paper and markers aside. Take the Bible.*

God is the foundation of our lives. Jesus is God's Son. He died on the cross to wash away our sins, and He rose on Easter morning. He loves you very much! Today, we are going to learn about Solomon. He was a king who wanted to build a house for God. Do you think Solomon had the right foundation? We'll see! Let's pray.

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, we need You as the foundation of our lives. Forgive us for trying to live without Your forgiveness and love. You have promised to never let us go. Encourage us to come to You in prayer with our joys and troubles. In Your name. Amen.

### LESSON TEXT

1 Kings 6:11–38; 11:1–11

### BIBLE TRUTH

God is worthy of worship.

### FAITH FOCUS

The Seventh Petition

### LAW & GOSPEL

In my sin, I turn away from God and worship idols.

**God dwells within me and all believers through Word and Sacrament, forgiving my sin.**

### BIBLE VERSE

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! Psalm 95:6

### VISUAL HELPS

Large sheet of white paper or cardboard

Markers or crayons

Bible

# THE UNWISE WISE KING—SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

## Unit 5, Lesson 14

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### Biography: King Solomon

**Directions:** Based on what you've learned about King Solomon in this lesson and in previous lessons, write and illustrate a one-paragraph biography of Solomon that includes both the wisdom God gave him and the unwise choices he made.

