

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 2 :: Solomon Builds the Temple

Treasure Story: 1 Kings 6:11-13, 8:12-9:9

When we use the phrase “house of God,” we typically mean a church. Now that the Holy Spirit has come, the real house of God is each believer because the Spirit dwells within us. In the days of King Solomon, however, the Holy Spirit had not come. Back then, God would temporarily visit the people by coming to rest over the Ark of the Covenant. God gave Solomon the task of building the temple where the Ark could rest and where God could come down temporarily. God’s permanent plan to reside with His people, however, required more than a structure being built. It required Jesus coming and dying on the cross.

Connect

“...Under the terms of the old covenant, the temple was the great meeting-place between a holy God and His sinful people. This was the place of sacrifice, the place of atonement for sin. But this side of the cross, where Jesus by His sacrifice pays for our sin, Jesus Himself becomes the great meeting-place between a holy God and His sinful people.”

– D. A. Carson

The thought of the Spirit of God coming to dwell temporarily in the temple is amazing, but the thought of Him coming as one of us to live among us is mind-blowing. Solomon obeyed God and built a place for God’s presence to visit. Jesus obeyed God even more and came to die on the cross so that we can dwell permanently in God’s presence. Here are a few ways to encourage your family to worship our amazing God who dwells among us:

- **A Changed Heart:** It can be hard to understand and define God’s presence. One of the greatest evidences of His presence, however, is a changed heart. Talk with your children about how your heart was changed when you trusted Jesus and He came to dwell in you. In other words, share with them how your desires, thoughts, and plans were different once Jesus was your Savior. Encourage them that this is one way to know that He is there.
- **Two or Three Gathered:** If your child is struggling with understanding the presence of God, point them to Matthew 18:20. When believers gather together, the Lord dwells among them. Jesus lives in everyone who trusts in Him for forgiveness of sin. But when Christians get together, His presence is magnified and even more strongly realized. This is the reason why God wants us to be with other believers and to pray with and serve them.

My Mission As Parent

- How often do you pause and consider the presence of the Lord?
- How does the presence of the Lord alter your schedule or behavior?
- Be sure to encourage your children to take advantage of every opportunity to be with other believers and praise God for what He has done for us in sending Jesus.

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to help you recognize and cherish His presence.
- Pray for the Lord to help you seek His presence through prayer and obedience to His Word.
- Praise the Lord together with your children that He sent Jesus so that we can enjoy His presence at all times and in all places.