

SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S TEMPLE

1 CHRONICLES 28:10-11; 1 KINGS 6:1, 6:11-14, 8:10-13

LEARN THE WORD

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

- David prepared the plans and materials for the temple, but it was his son Solomon who built it.
- The temple was a beautiful, permanent structure for the people to worship God. It replaced the portable tabernacle that Moses had built.
- God's glory appeared in the temple as a cloud to show His dwelling there.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose you're talking with friends, and they ask you, "Why in the world would you go to church on Sunday morning? Don't you want to sleep in?"

What could you say?

Sleeping in is great, but going to church is even better! At church, I learn the truth about God and the Bible. The Bible gives answers about life and the world that make sense. The more I learn about God, the more I want to worship Him. I don't have to go to a building to worship God. I can worship Him anytime, anywhere. But God likes it when His people come together to pray, praise, and worship Him. I like spending time with people who love God. Going to church is really great! You're welcome to come with me any Sunday.

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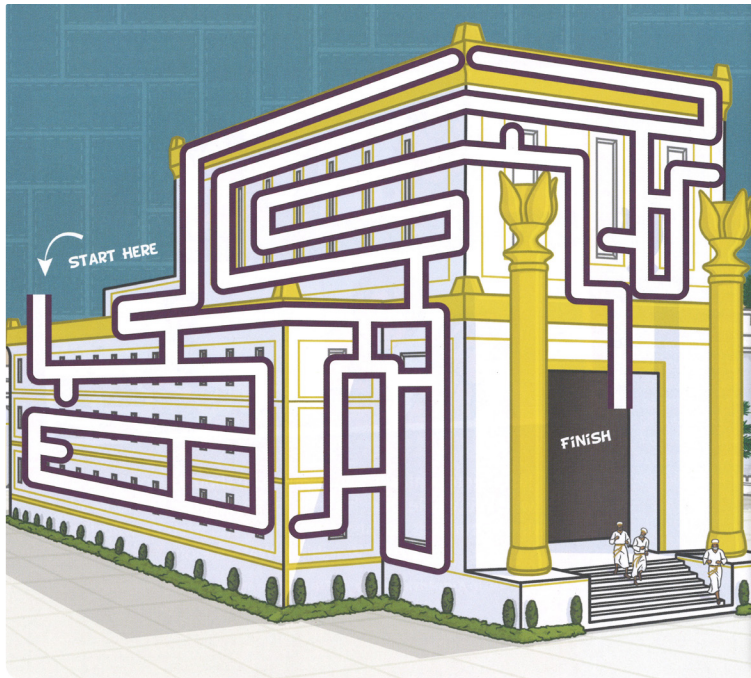
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Activity: Find your way through the temple.



HOMEWORD FOR PARENTS

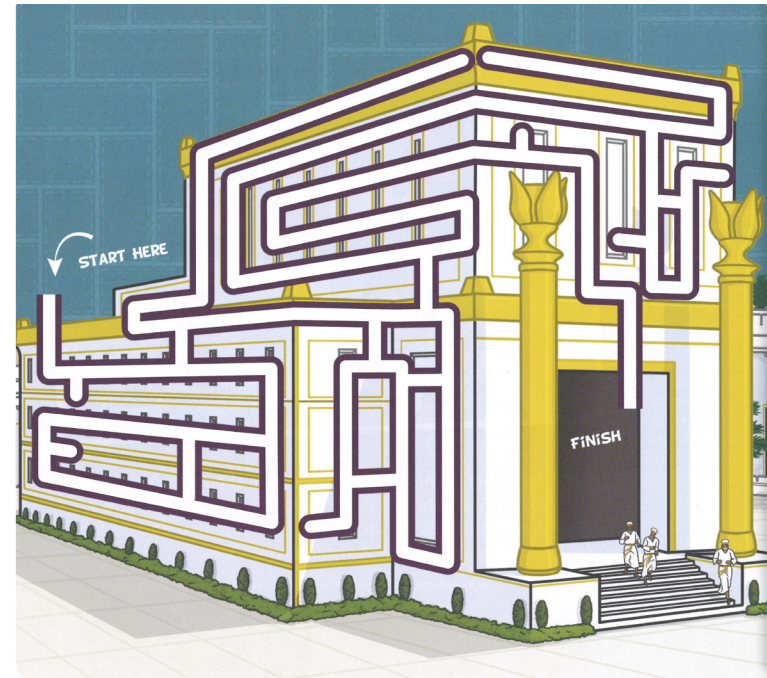
God gave David the instructions to build the temple, and David passed the plans on to Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:11-19). Like the plans for the tabernacle God gave to Moses, the instructions that David received from God described in amazing detail every design to be included in the construction of the temple and its furnishings.

The tabernacle Moses built was temporary and portable. It was used for worship by the Israelites while they were wandering in the desert and for another 440 years after that. The temple Solomon built, however, was a permanent structure built atop a mountain. The temple was a constant reminder that God's holiness and majesty demanded a very specific pattern of worship.

When the temple was finally dedicated, the ark of the covenant, containing the two tablets of the law given to Moses, was placed in the shadow of the wings of the cherubim (1 Kings 8:6-9). After the priests had placed the ark in the Most Holy Place, God's presence was seen as the cloud of His glory filled not only the space above the mercy seat but the entire temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). God was pleased to dwell among His people in this temple. For now, this would be the center of worship for the Israelites.

But God does not demand ornate temple worship today. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the place of worship would no longer be in Jerusalem, but God would dwell in every Christian rather than in a temple. And those true worshipers—those who worship God through His Son Jesus Christ—would worship in spirit and truth (John 4:20-24). Because of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, all believers may offer prayers directly to God and receive the grace and mercy He promises. What a glorious truth to share with the whole world!

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