

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 92: THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE**  
**1 KINGS 8:1-66**

The ark had been kept on Mount Zion, also known as the city of David. But Solomon decided to have the ark moved to the temple while everyone was in Jerusalem, celebrating the Festival of Shelters during Ethanim, the seventh month of the year. Solomon called together the important leaders of Israel. Then the priests and the Levites carried the ark to the temple, and they carried the sacred tent, and the objects used for worship. Solomon and a crowd of people walked in front of the ark, and along the way they sacrificed more sheep and cattle than you could count. The priests carried the ark into the most holy place and put it under the winged creatures, whose wings covered the ark and the poles used for carrying it. The poles were so long that they could be seen from right outside the most holy place, but not from anywhere else. And they stayed there from then on. The only things kept in the ark were the two tablets Moses had put there when the LORD made his covenant with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, after bringing them out of Egypt. Suddenly a cloud filled the temple as the priests were leaving the most holy place. The LORD's glory was in the cloud, and the light from it was so bright that the priests could not stay inside to do their work. Then Solomon prayed: "Our LORD, you said that you would live in a dark cloud. Now I have built a glorious temple where you can live forever." Solomon turned toward the people standing there. Then he blessed them and said: Praise the LORD God of Israel! Long ago he brought his people out of Egypt. He later kept his promise to make my father David the king of Israel. The LORD also said that he had not chosen the city where his temple would be built. So when David wanted to build a temple for the LORD God of Israel, the LORD said, "It's good that you want to build a temple where I can be worshiped. But you're not the one to do it. Your son will build a temple to honor me." The LORD has done what he promised. I am the king of Israel like my father, and I've built a temple for the LORD our God. I've also made a place in the temple for the ark. And in that ark are the tablets on which is written the solemn covenant the LORD made with our ancestors when he led them out of Egypt. Solomon stood facing the altar with everyone standing behind him. Then he lifted his arms toward heaven and prayed: LORD God of Israel, no other god in heaven or on earth is like you! You never forget the covenant you made with your people, and you are loyal to anyone who faithfully obeys your

teachings. My father David was your servant, and today you have kept every promise you made to him. LORD God of Israel, you promised my father that someone from his family would always be king of Israel, if they do their best to obey you, just as he did. Please keep this promise you made to your servant David. There's not enough room in all of heaven for you, LORD God. How could you possibly live on earth in this temple I have built? But I ask you to answer my prayer. This is the temple where you have chosen to be worshiped. Please watch over it day and night and listen when I turn toward it and pray. I am your servant, and the people of Israel belong to you. So whenever any of us look toward this temple and pray, answer from your home in heaven and forgive our sins. Suppose someone accuses a person of a crime, and the one that is accused has to stand in front of the altar in your temple and say, "I swear I am innocent!" Listen from heaven and decide who is right. Then punish the guilty person and let the innocent one go free. Suppose your people Israel sin against you, and then an enemy defeats them. If they come to this temple and beg for forgiveness, listen from your home in heaven. Forgive them and bring them back to the land you gave their ancestors. Suppose your people sin against you, and you punish them by holding back the rain. If they turn toward this temple and pray in your name and stop sinning, listen from your home in heaven and forgive them. The people of Israel are your servants, so teach them to live right. And please send rain on the land you promised them forever. Sometimes the crops may dry up or rot or be eaten by locusts or grasshoppers, and your people will be starving. Sometimes enemies may surround their towns, or your people will become sick with deadly diseases. Listen when anyone in Israel truly feels sorry and sincerely prays with arms lifted toward your temple. You know what is in everyone's heart. So from your home in heaven answer their prayers, according to the way they live and what is in their hearts. Then your people will worship and obey you for as long as they live in the land you gave their ancestors. Foreigners will hear about you and your mighty power, and some of them will come to live among your people Israel. If any of them pray toward this temple, listen from your home in heaven and answer their prayers. Then everyone on earth will worship you, just like your people Israel, and they will know that I have built this temple to honor you. Our LORD, sometimes you will order your people to attack their enemies. Then your people will turn toward this temple I have built for you in your chosen city, and they will pray to you. Answer their prayers from heaven and give them victory. Everyone sins. But when your people

sin against you, suppose you get angry enough to let their enemies drag them away to foreign countries. Later, they may feel sorry for what they did and ask your forgiveness. Answer them when they pray toward this temple I have built for you in your chosen city, here in this land you gave their ancestors. From your home in heaven, listen to their sincere prayers and do what they ask. Forgive your people no matter how much they have sinned against you. Make the enemies who defeated them be kind to them. Remember, they are the people you chose and rescued from Egypt that was like a blazing fire to them. I am your servant, and the people of Israel belong to you. So listen when any of us pray and cry out for your help. When you brought our ancestors out of Egypt, you told your servant Moses to say to them, "From all people on earth, the LORD God has chosen you to be his very own." When Solomon finished his prayer at the altar, he was kneeling with his arms lifted toward heaven. He stood up, turned toward the people, blessed them, and said loudly: Praise the LORD! He has kept his promise and given us peace. Every good thing he promised to his servant Moses has happened. The LORD our God was with our ancestors to help them, and I pray that he will be with us and never abandon us. May the LORD help us obey him and follow all the laws and teachings he gave our ancestors. I pray that the LORD our God will remember my prayer day and night. May he help everyone in Israel each day, in whatever way we need it. Then every nation will know that the LORD is the only true God. Obey the LORD our God and follow his commands with all your heart, just as you are doing today. Solomon and the people dedicated the temple to the LORD by offering twenty-two thousand cattle and one hundred twenty thousand sheep as sacrifices to ask the LORD's blessing. On that day, Solomon dedicated the courtyard in front of the temple and made it acceptable for worship. He offered the sacrifices there because the bronze altar in front of the temple was too small. Solomon and the huge crowd celebrated the Festival of Shelters at the temple for seven days. There were people from as far away as the Egyptian Gorge in the south and Lebo-Hamath in the north. Then on the eighth day, he sent everyone home. They said good-bye and left, very happy, because of all the good things the LORD had done for his servant David and his people Israel.

**92. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE**  
(1 KINGS 8:1-66)



“Then Solomon sent for all the important leaders of Israel, and all the chiefs of the tribes, and the heads of families of the children of Israel, to come to him in Jerusalem to take the ark of the Lord's covenant up out of the town of David, which is Zion.”

**1 KINGS 8:1**

## **92. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE**

**1 KINGS 8:1-66**

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

“And there has not failed one word of all His good promise which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant.” **1 KINGS 8:56**

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

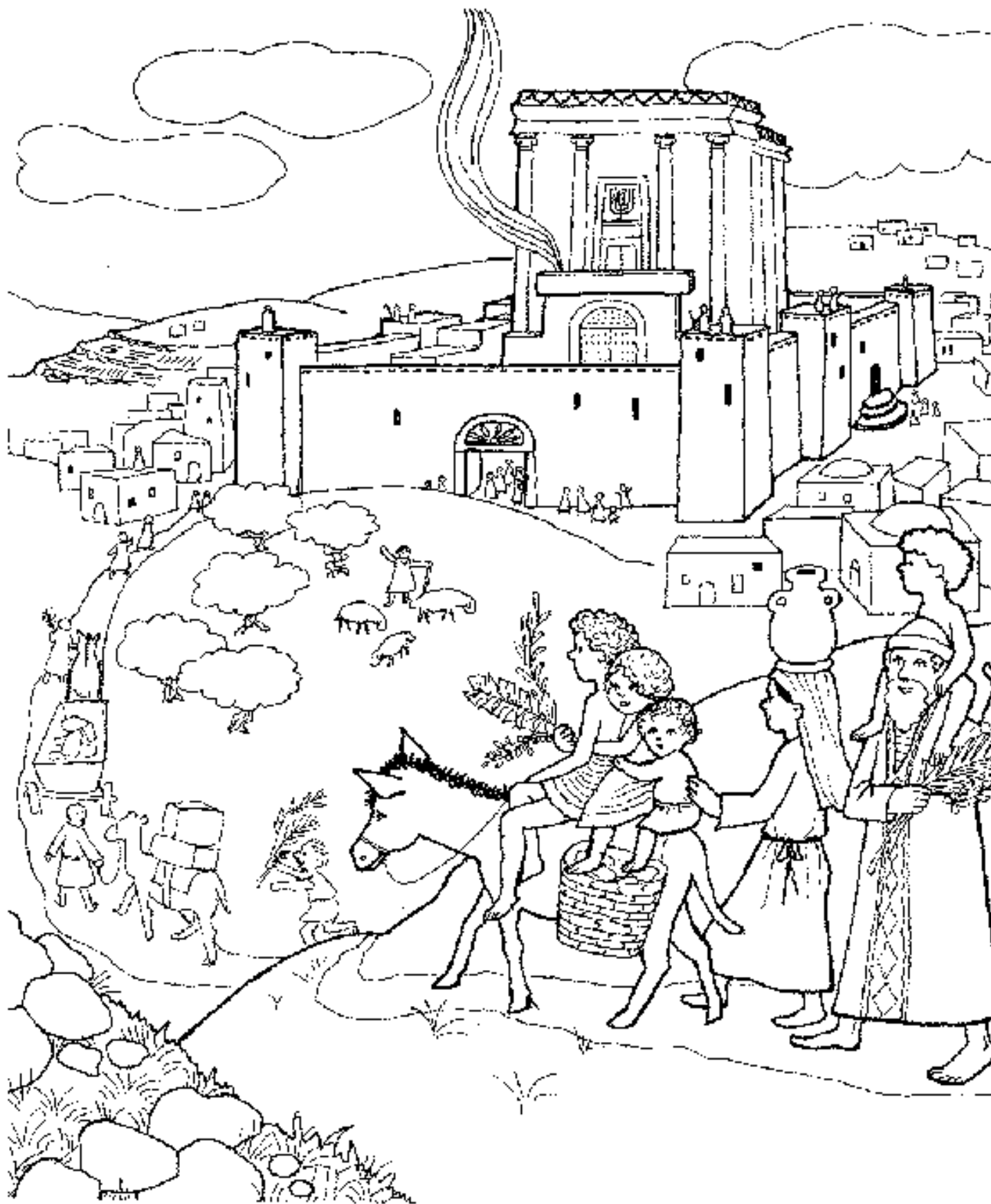
1. Solomon gathered all the important leaders of Israel to bring up the ark of God to the temple he had built.  
TRUE or FALSE
2. The priests and Levites carried the ark, the sacred tent, and all the instruments of worship to the temple. TRUE or FALSE
3. Solomon went in front of the ark and they sacrificed tomatoes and onions.  
TRUE or FALSE
4. The priests brought the ark into the most holy place in the temple and put it under the winged creatures. TRUE or FALSE
5. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets Moses had made, and some rocks and the robe of Moses. TRUE or FALSE

### **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. What happened when the priests were leaving the most holy place? What filled the temple?
2. What did King Solomon do when he turned around and saw all the people of Israel? Did he bless them? Yes!
3. When Solomon prayed to the LORD, what did he ask the LORD to do whenever His people prayed facing the temple? Was it to forgive their sins?
4. Did the people and Solomon offer sacrifices then? Was it a lot of cattle and a lot of sheep? Yes it was!
5. How many days did they celebrate the Feast in the temple? Was it seven days? Then did Solomon send everyone home? Yes!



The LORD forgives us if we pray to Him



The Holy Temple

## Lesson 92 Optional Activity

### Hop to the Temple

The entire nation of Israel was invited to the temple dedication.

For a fun game to help the children get their “wiggles” out, let’s play Hop to the Temple. Have children form two teams. With masking tape, make a starting line. Blow up two balloons and explain to the children that they will need to keep the balloon between their knees and hop to the “temple” (the other end of the room) and back. You can possibly draw a “temple” on the chalk/dry erase board/wall and have that as the side of the room that they will hop towards.

Make sure that the teams are evenly distributed; have the first child go a second time if the teams are not even. See which team can get to the temple and back first. Reward that team with the privilege of serving the snack later to the whole class during the Day of Celebration feast.

### A Day of Celebration

For Solomon and the people of Israel, the day that the temple was dedicated was a day of great celebration. We are blessed to celebrate the Lord’s presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit every day. Today, we are going to have a special time of celebration. Prepare a simple “feast” to celebrate God’s goodness and His faithfulness to all of His promises.

Have all of the children gather into a circle. Have napkins available for all of the children. Bring some small, simple snacks (raisins, carrots, fruit slices or popcorn). Allow the children who won the “Hop to the Temple” game to serve the other children in the circle. After serving the snack, pray with the children, thanking the Lord for all of His goodness. Next, allow each child to share ways that they are thankful to the Lord.

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His faithfulness to keep all of His promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.