

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 22nd August 2021

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring the story of Solomon dedicating the temple
You can find it in your Bible in:

1 Kings 8

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.

You might like to also read the story in

2 Chronicles 7

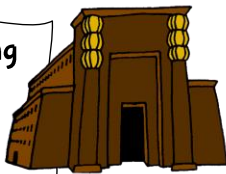
What similarities and differences can you find between the two versions of the story?

The other passages we may be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6 v 10-20

John 6 v 56-69



Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Where do you picture God living?

Sometimes we think about God as being far away in heaven. In the story today God was present in the temple as a cloud. In Ephesians 3 v 17 we read “I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.” Today God wants to live in our hearts, we are a temple for Him.

You might like to take a moment and UNWIND any misconceptions your child has about what God is like. Take a look at these resources from Parenting for Faith to help with the process. <https://parentingforfaith.org/unwinding>

A question for children to ask adults

Can you tell me about the time when you felt God’s presence most strongly?

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of your glory filling the temple that Solomon had built. Thank you that you are not far away from us but that we can know and feel you close to us on earth.

Thank you that today you choose to make your home in our hearts. Would you help us know and feel your presence today wherever we go.

We echo the prayer of Solomon today: “there is no god like you in heaven above or on earth below.” Thank you that you love us and that you always keep your promises.

Amen

Family Activity 1

Why not spend some time singing, dancing and worshipping God together. Before you begin invite God’s presence into your space and hearts.

Each of these songs has lyrics connected to Solomon’s words at the dedication of the temple. You can find recordings of all of them on YouTube. Can you match the lyrics to the passage in 1 Kings or work out how they connect with today’s story?



Covenant of Love - Acapella

“O Lord God of Israel There is no God like you
In heaven or earth below”

Worthy of it all – Bethel Music

“Day and Night, Night and Day, let incense arise”

Forever – Chris Tomlin

“Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever”



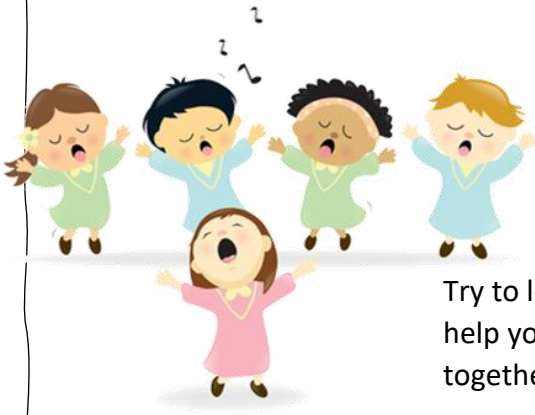
My heart, your home – Hillsong Kids

“Come and make my heart your home”

A verse to remember

Psalm 84 v 10

One day in the courtyards of your Temple is better than a thousand days anywhere else.



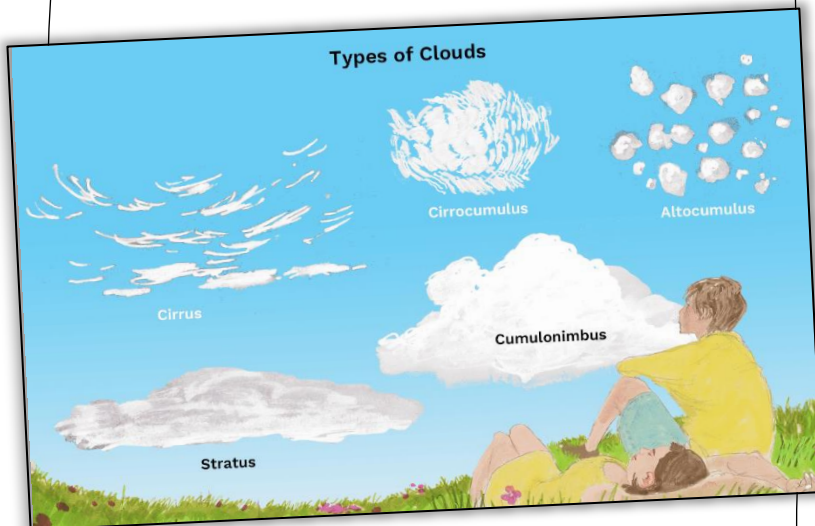
Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

God appeared as a cloud that filled the temple. Why not spend some time cloud watching as a family.

What different shapes and pictures can you see in the clouds?

What different types of cloud can you see?



Active Prayer (alternative)

If you don't have access to the resources needed for the shaving foam prayers why not go outside and do some cloud gazing.

What shapes and pictures can you see in the clouds?

How might God want to use them to inspire your prayers today?



Active Prayer

We love this Shaving Foam Cloud Prayers idea from www.flamecreativekids.blogspot.com

You will need: shaving foam, a tall glass, water, food colouring in two or three colours, small dishes, teaspoons or droppers.

Pour a couple of tablespoons of water into each small dish. Colour each dish of water with a different food colouring. Don't water the colouring down too much because the more intense the colouring the better!

Fill the glass half way with water and squirt shaving foam to make a 'cloud' in the glass above it (this will probably fill the other half of the glass).



Think of a person or situation you'd like to pray for and choose a colour of water you'd like to use to represent that prayer. Ask God to help them and then use a teaspoon or dropper to pour a small amount of coloured water on top of the shaving foam cloud.



The colouring will slowly seep down through the spaces between the foam and the glass, and 'rain' down into the water. As this happens, imagine God's power breaking through and changing that situation, just as the colour is breaking through and changing the water.

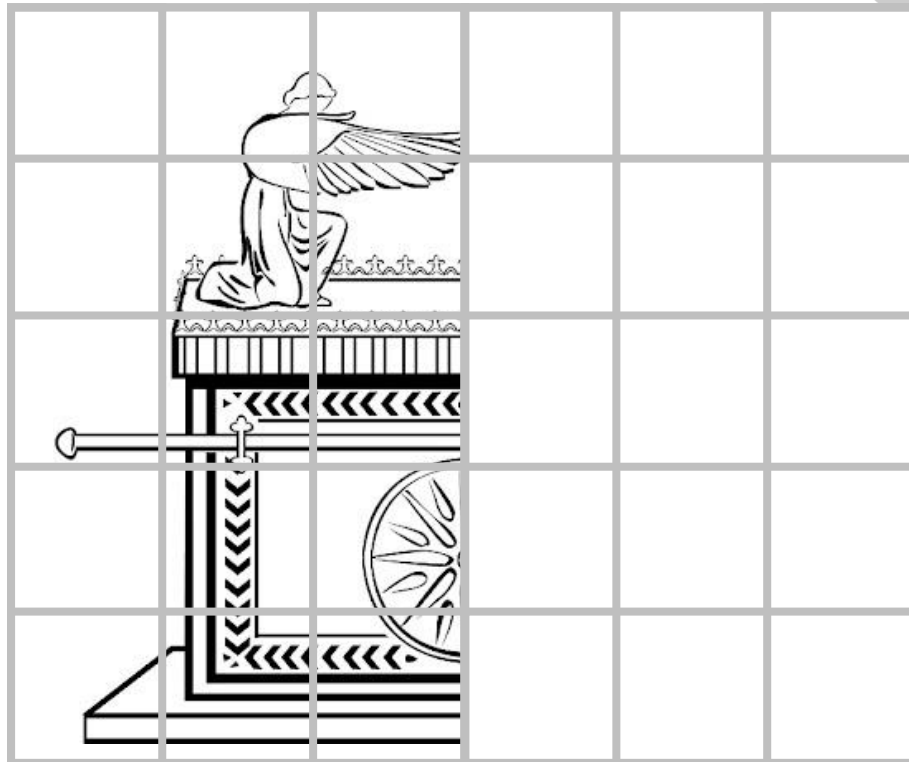
Repeat with other colours as you pray more prayers.

Colouring page



PUZZLE SHEET

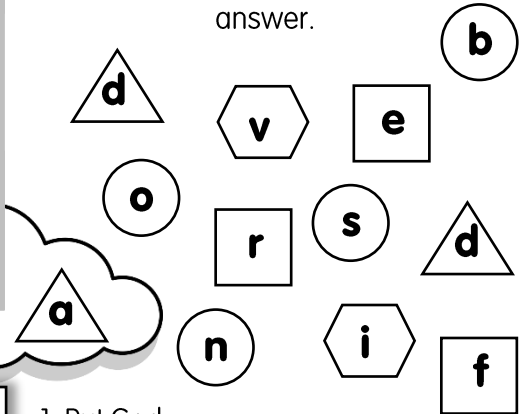
When Solomon dedicated the temple God's presence filled it like a cloud.. How many clouds can you find on the page?



Copy and mirror the squares to complete the picture of the Ark of God.

Who first wanted to build a temple for God?

Cross out all the letters in circles or squares then unscramble the remaining letters to reveal the answer.



The Ark of the Covenant was used to store the stone tablets God had given to Moses. On these were written instructions for God's people for how to live right for Him. Can you work out which word fits in the gap and then find the correct word in the wordsearch?
Words can be found forwards as well as backwards.

Based on an original puzzle sheet from www.printabletreats.com

- Put God _____ .
(first / second / last)
- Worship _____ only.
(money / God / fame)
- _____ God's name.
(hate / mock / respect)
- Remember God's day of _____ .
(rest / work / eating)
- Respect your _____ .
(pets / parents / peanuts)
- Do not _____ .
(kill / kiss / cook)
- Be _____ in marriage.
(miserable / angry / faithful)
- Do not _____ .
(dance / steal / eat)
- Do not _____ .
(lie / sleep / shower)
- Do not be _____ of others.
(jealous / respectful / aware)

