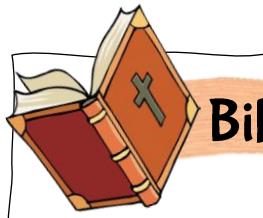


Together @ Home

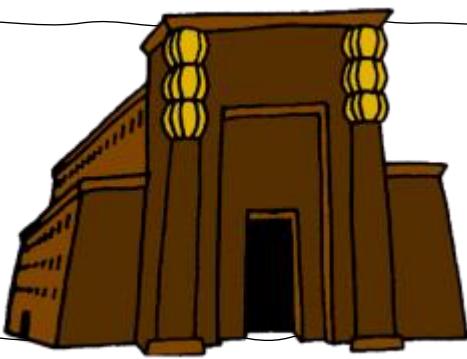


Bible Passage

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

1 Kings 6–7

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



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of King Solomon who built a temple for you to dwell in. Thank you that you are not far from us but that we can invite you into our hearts and know you living inside us through our helper the Holy Spirit.

We pray for those in our communities who do not have a safe home or any place to live, would you protect and provide for them.

We thank you for our own church building and pray for all those who visit it that they would encounter and meet with you.

Amen

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.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Solomon built a temple for God?

The people of God had been brought out of slavery in Egypt and had travelled for many years. They had carried the Ark of God, with them, a precious symbol of God's presence amongst, but for all this time they had kept the Ark of God in a tent. Now God's people were settled in the land they had been promised, God had given them a home. Building a solid temple where the Ark of God could live and where God's people could worship Him was a symbol that God had done all He had promised for His people.

A question for children to ask adults

Where do you feel closest and most connected to God?



Family Activity 1

If you were designing a home for God what would you include?

Why not use paper and pens to draw a picture together of what you God's perfect home might look like or build it together from Lego or blocks.

What rooms and special features would you include?

Who would you invite to live there?

What would the grounds and gardens look like?





A verse to remember

Ephesians 2 v 20–21

You are like a building that was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in that building, and that whole building is joined together in Christ. He makes it grow and become a holy temple in the Lord.

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

We are invited to be part of building God's Kingdom here on the earth, sharing God's love with others and inviting God's rule and reign in our communities. Why not find some stones to decorate with messages of encouragement and love. Paint onto the stones or decorate them with permanent markers.

Take the stones and place them around your community, pray that God would bless and encourage those that see them, that they would know God's love for themselves.



Active Prayer

We can encounter and connect with God wherever we are in the world.



Why not go on a prayer adventure around your own home.

Here is a prayer inspiration for each room in your house:

Bedrooms: Visit each bedroom in the house and say a prayer for the people who sleep in that room.

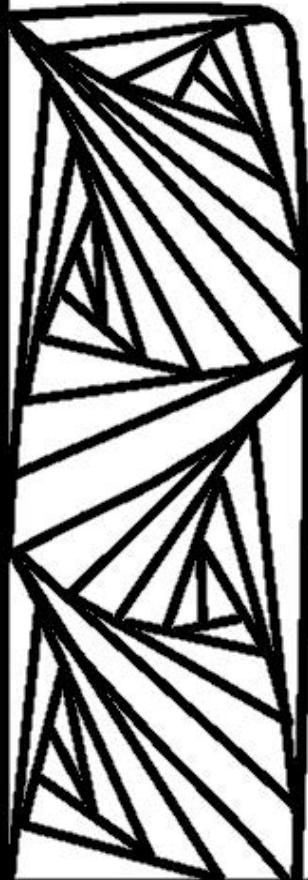
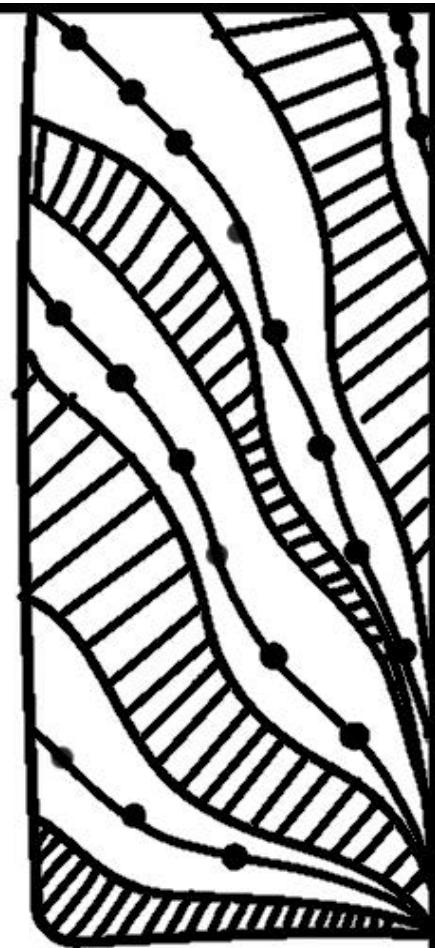
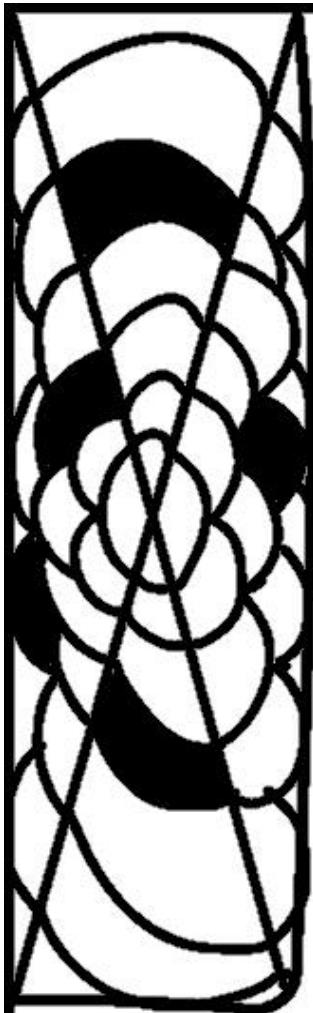
Kitchen: Pray a thank you prayer to God for providing physical and spiritual food for us each day. Pray for the foodbank and all those charities helping people to access food and supplies.

Bathroom: While you are in the bathroom... wash your hands and then take a moment to pray for all working for the NHS and emergency services and those working to vaccinate people against Coronavirus.

Living Room: Take a moment to pray for all those who appear on our screens – world leaders making difficult decisions, church leaders finding new ways to be church during lockdown and teachers connecting with their classes online.

Garden/Outside: Pray for all those in your street and community that they would come to know God more and that He would provide all that they need.

Colouring page

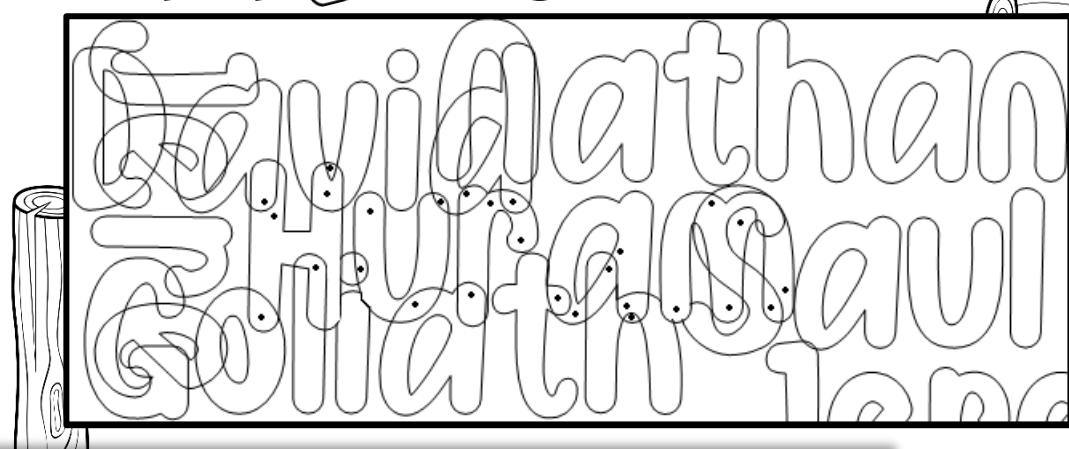


Ephesians 2 v 20-21

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PUZZLE SHEET

Solomon built the temple from Cedar Wood. How many logs can you find on the page?



Colour all the spaces with a dot to reveal who Solomon called to make the bronze items for the temple.

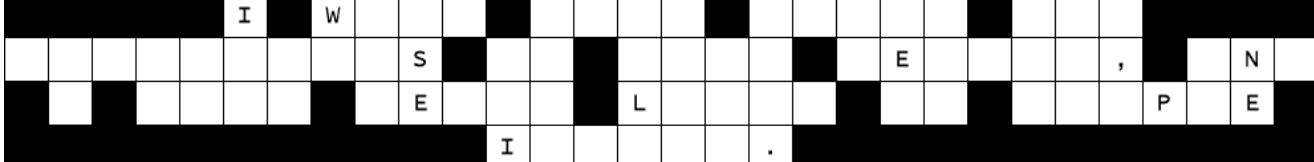
Solomon built himself a palace! What do you think it might have looked like?
Draw it here!



The letters have dropped straight down out of the puzzle.

Move them back up to reveal a message from God to Solomon.

CLUE: Begin with the columns that only have one space.



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