

Lesson 25-A: SOLOMON'S PLANS FOR THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 6

INTRODUCTION:

First read aloud to the children:

King David had been a fighting king. With the Lord's help, he had conquered his enemies, and brought the kingdom of Israel to its greatest power.

After David, his son, King Solomon, reigned. The name "Solomon" means peace, and Solomon had peace in the kingdom of Israel for his entire reign. He had asked the Lord for wisdom, and the Lord had blessed him with great wisdom and riches.

One of the great things Solomon did was to have a beautiful temple built for the Lord. We will now read about the planning of the temple from the Word. There are a lot of details in this chapter. After reading, we will play a game about Solomon's temple. See if you recognize any objects in the game from the details we read about in this chapter.

READING:

Now all turn to **1 Kings 6**. *(There are 38 verses - divide up the verses among the students and yourself, and have everyone take a turn reading aloud.)*

ACTIVITIES:

Play the "Solomon's Temple" Memory Game

Play "Memory" with the Solomon's Temple picture cards. (This game will prepare the children for the next activity, the Relay Race.)

Procedure:

Print two sets of the 24 picture cards in the game packet. Cut them apart and use for the memory game and relay race described in this lesson.

Rules of Play:

- The children pair up with two sets of cards between them.
- They shuffle all the cards together and lay them out in eight rows of six, face down.
- One player starts by flipping over a card and reading it out loud. He or she flips a second card to find a match, reads it out loud, takes the pair if it is a match and returns the cards to their original positions if it is not.
- The second player repeats the process. The two players continue alternating turns until all the cards are obtained. The player with the most cards wins.

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Relay Race

This requires 1 set of the 24 picture cards from “Solomon’s Temple” game, 2 large T-shirts, 2 adults and at least 8 children.

Rules of Play:

- Form 2 teams with an adult leader for each. Each adult gets 12 cards.
- Each team gets one T-shirt.
- Make a starting line. Decide on an object each team must run around (a chair, a cone, etc.)
- The teams line up behind the starting line with the first runner wearing the T-shirt and standing, and the other 3 teammates kneeling. One adult stands, cards in hand, by each of the first runners.
- At the signal to start, each adult shows a card to the team member at the front, covering the name of the object with a thumb. (It is only the name of the object that needs to be covered. Some names will need 2 thumbs.) As soon as the team member gives the correct name, he or she races around the determined object and back to the next runner in line. That next runner should be kneeling with arms outstretched over the head and chin down. On reaching the starting line, the first and second runners grab onto each other’s shoulders and the other 2 teammates pull the T-shirt from the hem, up and over the head of the first runner and over the head and arms of the second. (The shirt will turn inside out.) The second runner stands and identifies the object on the next card and runs as the first teammate did, and so on. The first team to use up all its cards and cross the finish line wins.
- Note: Allow practice for switching the T-shirts.

DIRECTIONS FOR ASSEMBLING THE SOLOMON’S TEMPLE CARDS

Procedure:

1. Print two sets of the 24 picture cards in the game packet. Cut them apart and use for Solomon’s Temple Memory Game and/or Solomon’s Temple Relay Race.

Lesson 25-B: THE TEMPLE IS FINISHED
1 Kings 7: 40 – 1Kings 8: 21

INTRODUCTION:

First read aloud to the children:

Solomon was overseeing the building of a magnificent temple to honor and worship the Lord. Last time in Sunday School, we read about some of the plans to construct the building. But there were also many things to make that would go in and around the temple.

Hiram was a man from a place called Tyre. He was skilled in making things out of bronze. In our reading from the Word today, we'll hear about some of the things that Hiram made for the temple out of bronze, and some of the other things that were made out of gold. Then we will read about when the temple was finished, and Solomon brought the Ark of the Covenant into it, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

READING: Now take turns reading aloud from **1 Kings 7: 40 - 1 Kings 8: 21** (33 verses)

ACTIVITY: Play "Memory" with the Solomon's Temple picture cards or run the Relay Race (see instructions above).

Lesson 25-C
Solomon Asks for an Understanding Heart

INTRODUCTION:

First read aloud to the children:

What qualities made King Solomon a good leader for the kingdom of Israel? And why did the Lord allow him to build the Temple in Jerusalem? Solomon's prayer helps answer both questions. It is one of the most beautiful prayers in the Word.

READING:

Now all turn to **I Kings 3:5-15**. (*Have everyone take a turn reading aloud.*)

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION (from a family talk by Rev. Morley Rich):

Wasn't that a lovely thing to ask for? Solomon was not thinking of himself, but about how he might guide and help his people, so that he might meet their needs and wishes.

What would you say if the Lord asked "What shall I give you?"

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Why is an “understanding heart” something we might all want to have?

So often it is hard to tell whether something is good or bad, true or false. An "understanding heart" lets you truly see the difference between good and evil. So to be wise from the heart - that is, to be wise with love - is the greatest gift the Lord can give us. And He longs to give it to every one of His children.

As we grow up, we learn that many of the things we want are not really good for us, and may actually be bad and against the Lord's commandments. If we really want to become wise, the Lord will teach us how to tell the difference between good and bad. He will make us wise through the teachings in His Word and will give us the ability to understand them.

ACTIVITY:

Prayer with Decorative Border

Write your own prayer to the Lord or use one of the sample prayers. Make a decorative border around it.

OR

Prayer Bookmark

Choose one sentence (or a phrase) from one of the sample prayers and use it to make a bookmark. Think of a way to decorate your bookmark (border, small illustration, *etc.*).

Supplies:

- construction paper or stiff paper like cardstock
- precut cardstock into “bookmark” size pieces (11’ by 3”)
- photocopies of sample prayers from the Word (see next page)
- colored pencils or markers
- pens
- optional: gold metallic markers

**Lesson 25-C
Sample Prayers**

Teach us to number our days, O Lord,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Amen.
(see Psalm 90:12)

Lord, please help me learn how to love You with all of my heart,
all of my soul, all of my mind, and all of my strength. Amen.
(see Matthew 22:37) see also Mark 12:30

Lord, help me follow You each day.

I will wait on You, Lord, and be of good courage,
and You shall strengthen my heart.
(see Psalm 27:14)

I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.
(Psalm 111:1)

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law.
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
(see Psalm 119:34)

Lord, help me live the life that leads to heaven.
(see DP 73)

Lesson 25-D
Solomon's Great Building Project
(for older children)

Supplies:

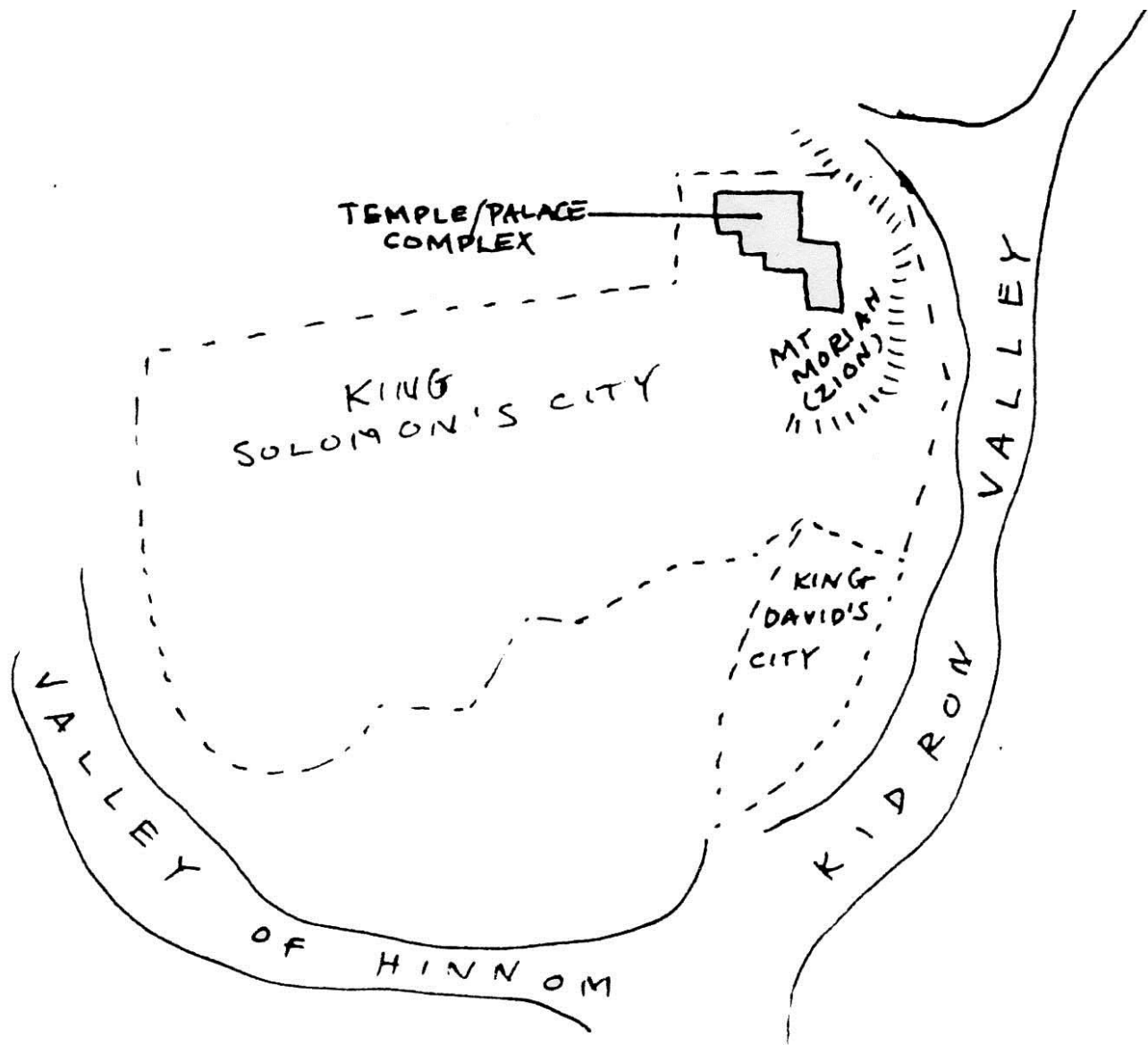
photocopies of the diagrams on the next two pages
colored pencils
pens
map of the city of Jerusalem or a teacher's Bible

Procedure:

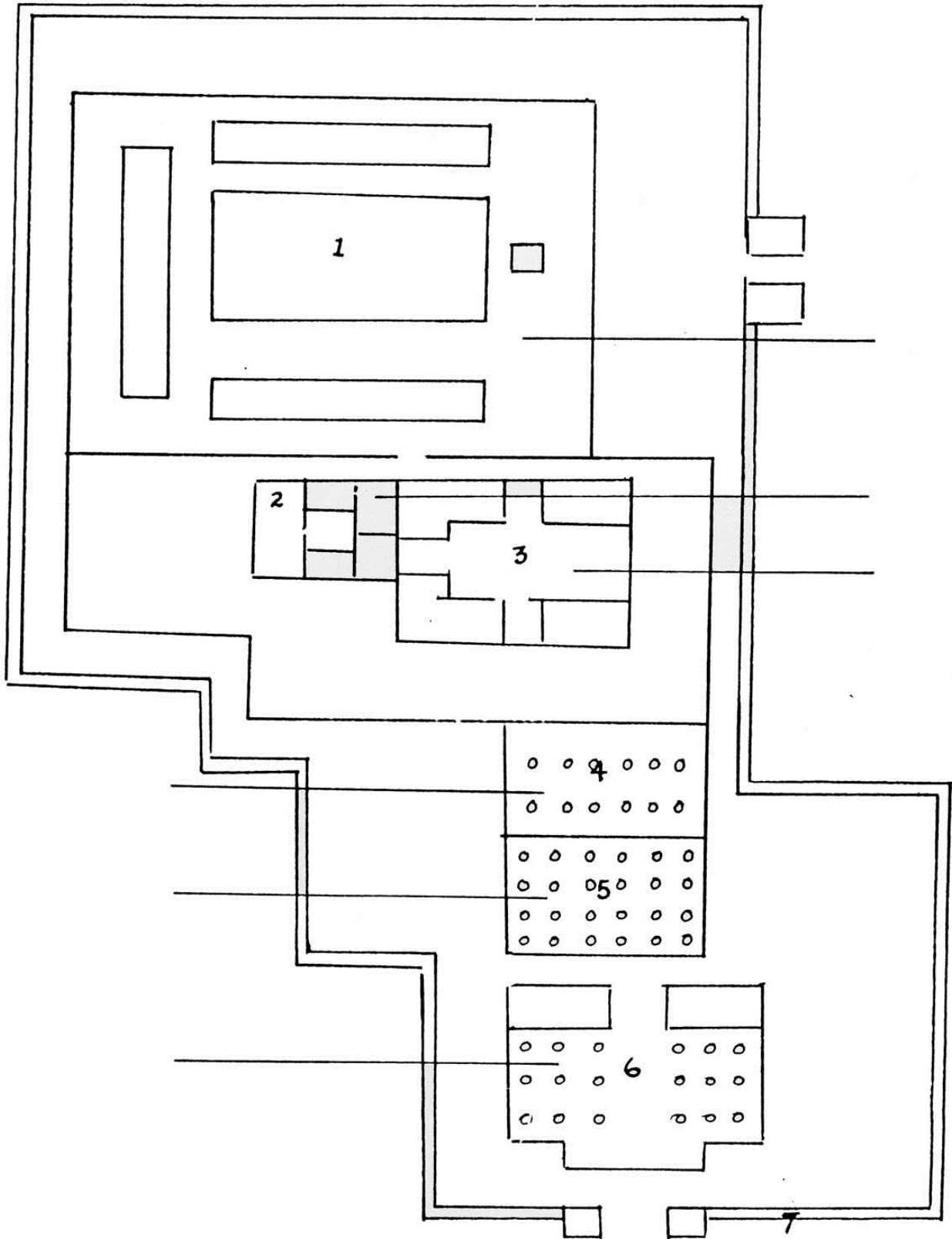
Referring to the information below, the children color in and label the diagram of Solomon's building project. In the back of your teacher's Bible you will probably find a map of Palestine with insets of the area on which the temple/palace complex was built. This will give the children an idea of where their diagram fits in to the whole city and country.

- 1) Color the whole temple area yellow. The temple is in the center, with three buildings of chambers to house the priests. In front is the great altar of burnt offering. The temple had not yet been built at the time of our chapter. Label the area at the end of the pointer line.
- 2) The house of Pharaoh's daughter. See verse 1 to see why Solomon would build a house for her. Color it pink and label it.
- 3) The King's house. Solomon's Palace. Color it blue. See I Kings 7 to find out how long it took Solomon to build his palace. Label it.
- 4) The Porch of Judgment. Solomon's throne hall. See I Kings 10:18—20 for a description of the throne. Color the hall purple and label it.
- 5) The Porch of Pillars. A waiting room for those who came for an audience with the King. Color it orange and label it.
- 6) The House of the Forest of Lebanon. This was where they kept the weapons. See I Kings 10:16. Color it red and label it.
- 7) The wall around the whole area. Color it green.

Map Showing Location of Solomon's Temple



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Diagram of Solomon's Great Building Project



Solomon's Temple Picture Cards

Use these cards to play Memory and for the Relay Race described in the lesson.

<p>Lavers</p>  <p>To Hold Water</p>	<p>Two Large Cherubim</p>  <p>To Stand Over the Ark</p>	<p>Stone</p>  <p>To Build the Temple</p>	<p>Cedar</p>  <p>For Walls, Beams And Ceilings</p>
<p>Altar</p>  <p>Of Incense</p>	<p>Small Carved Cherubim</p>  <p>On Walls and Doors</p>	<p>Carved Palm Trees</p>  <p>On Walls and Doors</p>	<p>Carts</p>  <p>To Hold the Lavers</p>
<p>Olive Wood</p>  <p>For Large Cherubim, Doors and Doorposts</p>	<p>Gold Censers</p>  <p></p>	<p>Ark</p>  <p>Of The Covenant</p>	<p>Gold Chain Curtain</p>  <p></p>

<p>Bronze Pillars</p>  <p>In Front of the Temple</p>	<p>Carved Open Flowers</p>  <p>On Walls and Doors</p>	<p>Gold</p>  <p>Lampstands</p>	<p>Bowls and Pots</p>  <p>For Eating and Holy Rituals</p>
<p>Shields</p>  <p>Stored in the Temple</p>	<p>Large Altar</p>  <p>For Burnt Offerings</p>	<p>"The Sea" Made of Bronze</p>  <p>Upon Twelve Ox</p>	<p>The Table</p>  <p>Of Showbread</p>
<p>Shovels</p>  <p>To Remove the Ashes</p>	<p>Cypress Wood</p>  <p>For Doors and Floors</p>	<p>Much Gold</p>  <p>To Cover Everything in the Temple</p>	<p>Beveled Frames</p>  <p>Around the Windows</p>