

4.8 Solomon's Temple

Unit 2: God Calls Us

1 Kings 5:1-5 & 8:1-13

10/22 & 10/26

Unit Verse: “But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

The Point & Call Back:
GOD > Calls US!

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

We see how Solomon is called – invited by God – to continue his father David's work in establishing the nation of Israel by creating a focus for Israel's prayer and worship. Solomon builds the temple, and God honors his work by filling the completed space with almost unbearable glory.

STORY SUMMARY: Solomon's Temple

Today we learn that people of Israel will not only be united under one king, but also in one permanent place of worship, the temple. For Israel, having a permanent central temple serves as a reminder that they have been chosen to be God's people with the expectations for worship and service that comes with that honor. God honors the temple by filling it with God's presence. It is clear, though, that God's presence is overwhelming for those present, and they can only bear it for a short time. This is a reminder that although we might build earthly spaces to honor God, and God honors our attempts at faithfulness, we can never truly contain or even understand all of God's glory. The people of Israel used the temple as to focus on their relationship with God. We do the same through our acts of individual and collective prayer. The more we are engaged with this kind of interaction with God, the more we see ourselves the way God sees us. We are no longer defined by our mistakes or failings. Instead, we realize that God is with us and loves us unconditionally.

THE POINT: We give the best of ourselves when we work to fulfill our callings.

When we are truly allowing God to work through us to do the work God invites us to do – our callings – God molds us to be whom God has called us to be. We may try to utilize our gifts to the best of our own abilities, but when we allow God to utilize the gifts within us, we become something of almost unbearable beauty. It is only through God's presence in our lives that we reach the fulfillment of our call as disciples.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS: The Temple

According to the Bible, King Solomon built the temple as a replacement of the tabernacle-the holy worship tent that God commanded the Israelites to build at Mt Sinai-in order to provide a more permanent and centralized place of worship. This temple was also home to the Ark of the Covenant, which was likely later destroyed during the Babylonian conquest. While the temple is like our churches of today, there are also some differences

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Service

We recognize that God is present throughout our world and not only in our places of worship. However, in honor of our lesson, we will discuss ways that we can serve in our own congregations.

(S&T)

Hope Youth Volunteers,

Solomon got to do what David wanted to do build the temple. Isn't it wonderful that God has specific work for us to do? It reminds me of the verse: *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* – **Ephesians 2:10**

He has great work for us to do. When He created you He knew that you would help in Hope Youth! We are saved to serve. We get to do what we were created to do when we serve the Lord. How cool is that?

Blessings,
The Hope Youth Team