



Digital Borrowing Box for 22 August, 2021

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-59

Hello!

We are very pleased to announce that our **Back to Church Sunday** will be **22 August**. Make sure to book spaces through the church website for this fun family service! We'll be so happy to catch up with you all and hear how your holidays have been!

Please book your family in for the service by contacting us through bookgreenbank@gmail.com or phoning 0771 883 6683.

Mark your calendar for Greenbank's Big Weekend! On 25 September we will be having a day jam packed with events around the building, a drop-in cafe, with games and activities for children and families! Make sure to mark it in your diary!

Finally, this will be the last of our Digital Borrowing Boxes! We hope they've been a help over these past months. With the return of Young Church, the material that would go into the Borrowing Boxes will be given to our volunteers. So make sure to come along to Young Church!

For this week, our box includes:

- A Parent's Brief for you
- A Painting and Reflection
- A Word Search for use during the service
- Some Activity Ideas for the week!

Before Livestream:

Print off materials, prepare markers and paper for drawing throughout the service.

During:

Have markers and paper to hand for your children through the service.

After:

Give some of our activities a try! We've divided them up into different categories to help you decide when to do them.

Steve Chaffee and the Young Church Team

Parent's Brief: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43



Today's story features snippets from Solomon's dedication of the First Temple--the great work project he inherited from his father David. It starts to signal a shift in the religious views of the Israelites--that their god has changed from a transient, mobile one who lives in a tent to one that has settled in place.

Like his father before him, this event is as much public spectacle as it is religious experience. Solomon is further cementing his image as *someone who gets things done*. The ark of the covenant is installed in the innermost chamber of the Temple, which by all accounts was awe-inspiring.

But Solomon has more to say. V41-43 comes in the middle of Solomon's speech. In them, Solomon addresses God in the sight of the people (for their benefit too): when the foreigner comes to this place to worship you, and calls on your name--listen to them! This pushes *against* the notion of a tribal god concerned only for their people. It even signals an evangelistic impulse in the Israelites.

Beautiful sights are as much an avenue to God as are good actions and the search for truth. But it is possible to get too connected to the building and lose sight that God's concern is always for *the people*.

1) Who Is The Church *For*? This is a great question for kids. Is it for the mature members who like the hymns? Is it for *you and me*? Is it for those who are hurting, tired, or lonely? Who might we invite into this space--but more crucially--into this *community*?

2) Where's God? In a real sense, the Israelites thought the Temple was where it was *easiest* to sense God. Like Iona, it was thought to be a 'thin place'. Where are the 'thin places' for you and your children?



An Architectural Model of Solomon's Temple, designed by Thomas Newberry in 1883.

The model pictured above is 234cm by 112! It is wood gilt with gold, and has been on display in the Met Museum in New York. But getting to New York is a bit tricky right now. Fortunately--there are online tours available!

To see more exterior photos, see [The Met's Public Page](#) on it.

To see more interior photos and a short video tour, [Take A Peek Inside An Ancient Temple!](#)

When looking at the interior photos, keep an eye for all the different sorts of *plants*! The descriptions of the Temple from the Bible fill the space with plants, angels, and signs of plenty. They all are meant to refer to the Garden of Eden--as if to call us back to the ancient story, our present responsibility to the land, and our future in God.

Solomon Dedicates The Temple

M	R	R	E	N	G	I	E	R	O	F	A	I	I
D	A	C	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E	S	D
E	R	S	U	P	M	P	T	N	D	R	R	H	O
D	N	A	N	O	M	O	L	O	S	E	E	S	D
I	A	N	T	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	L	S
C	S	R	O	T	S	R	I	F	L	C	L	P	M
A	L	E	E	T	E	M	P	L	E	E	I	L	T
T	A	P	O	P	E	M	E	E	D	E	N	N	E
E	T	E	N	E	T	S	I	L	L	A	D	D	O
S	O	E	D	O	E	U	C	A	O	D	M	R	R
T	S	I	E	E	N	I	E	E	G	T	S	O	A
T	S	A	A	R	C	E	L	I	D	C	E	L	T
T	A	E	R	T	E	L	O	T	O	E	N	R	L
H	L	H	C	E	E	P	S	D	T	N	R	M	A

SOLOMON
GOLD
MOUNTAIN
SPEECH
CEDAR
LISTEN
ALTAR
TEMPLE
FIRST
DEDICATES
FOREIGNER
ISRAELITES

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2632936/>

Steve's Bonus Words:

Nano, See, Ant, Pop, Tenet, Lad, Doe, Lad

Activity Ideas:

(Craft, Bible Story) Holy

Tea Lights: You'll need a glass jar, glue, tissue paper, and some battery-powered tea lights for this craft!

Using the tissue paper, children are encouraged to cover the whole exterior of their glass jar, in whatever pattern and shape they'd like--so long as the whole jar gets covered!

Once a tea light is put inside, you can chat about how people find stained glass beautiful--just like their tea lights are beautiful! There are many ways people feel a holy space--this is one example!

(Game, Reflective) Trust

Walk: Using some blindfolds, have the children do a trust-walk through the house, the backyard, or even part of a local park.

At one place, you can even set a timer for a minute and tell the children to *listen*. After, talk about what they heard while blindfolded.

All Age Prayer, Spill The Beans

Loving God,
as we close our eyes
and do our best to pray,
we wonder if some places
are better than others
for you to hear our prayers
and answer them.

Do you hear us more clearly
in church,
or in the big, beautiful world
outside?

Is an old building better than
a new one?

Should it be very fancy, or
very plain;
very quiet or filled with words
and music?

Do you pay more attention
if we all meet together and
ask the same things,
or do you like it just as much
when we have a wee quiet
word with you on our own?

We think of Jesus,
and we know what he would
say—
that it doesn't matter where,
or when, or how we pray—
all that matters is that we
come
to share our lives with you,

knowing that you will listen to
what we say,
and will speak when we are
ready to listen.

Amen.