

October 27, 2013

Lesson 8: Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 'You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name."



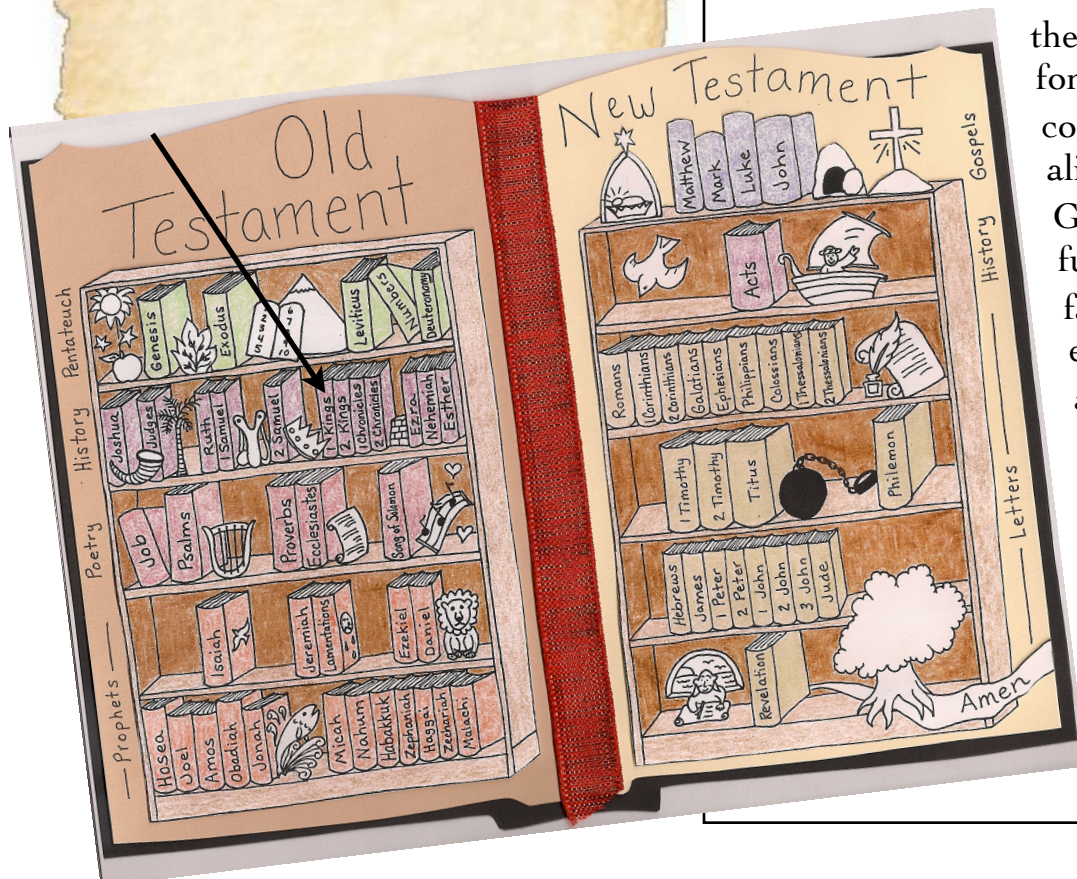
Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. So they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon said,
'The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell in for ever.'

Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

“...for the glory
of the Lord filled
the house of the
Lord.”



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The Big Story Truth: Even in times of hardship and change, even when we have done something terribly wrong and need to be corrected, God is with us and will call us back into the relationship of promise and faith in God's provision!

About This Scripture Passage: God made promises to his people. God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their family would grow, that they would be a blessing to the whole earth, and that they would have a land God would give them. God promised David that his son would one day build a temple. God keeps God's promises. The Ark of the Covenant within the temple is a symbol God's promise and of God's presence with his people.

But God's people were not always faithful. For as much as God was faithful, the people rebelled. Solomon, who had this beautiful vision of a temple for God, built the temple by means of foreign allegiances that compromised his faith and alienated his subjects. God's people divided, future kings worshipped false gods, and the enemies conquered. The ark of the covenant was carried away. Even the temple itself was destroyed. But did that mean that God's presence was no longer with the people? No. As the people went into exile, God went with them....

Making the Connection: Today is the Sunday in the church year that we call "Reformation Sunday." It is the day that we remember what happened in the 1500s when Martin Luther nailed his complaints against the Catholic church to the door of the church in an effort to get everyone to open their eyes to how God's servants in the church were not being faithful to God's Word. Hearing the story of the building of the temple on this day is a reminder that God's love and God's presence can never be "boxed." God's love will always be transforming us, shaping us, pushing us to grow and to learn in new ways. For kids, it's important for them to hear that as they grow and as they change.... and as they get things wrong, and screw up... that God will still be with them.

Where in the World Are We?

The temple is built in the city of Jerusalem. Be sure to help your kids locate the city of Jerusalem on the magnified map. Show them pictures of what the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant may have looked like.

For Your Reflection:

What is a major screw up that you've had in life?

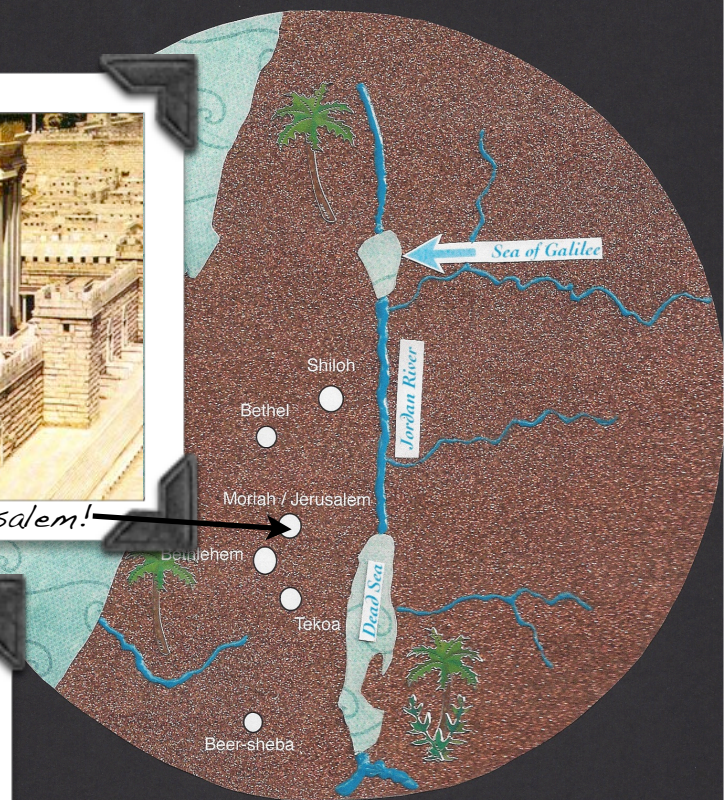
How did God open your eyes to what needed to be corrected?



The Temple, Jerusalem!



Ark of the Covenant



Large Group Gathering

Welcome kids and their parents. Say: **Do you remember, way back a couple of months ago in Sunday School we talked about a man named Abraham? Do you remember what God promised to Abraham?** God promised Abraham that he would have a HUGE family and that they would have a safe place of their own to live. **Good remembering! God kept his promises to Abraham and his family grew big in the land God had given them! God made promises to other family member too. One of them was David. David was one of Abraham's great-great-great-great (and on) grandsons of Abraham. God promised David that he would get to be king. And he did! But there was one thing that David always wanted to do that God said no to. David wanted to build a house for God. But God said David's son, Solomon, would get to do it instead. Today we are going to learn about how God kept that promise to David and how Solomon built the temple- a house for God!**

Let's sing together a song about God keeping his promises! Sing "The Lord is Faithful."

Continue by asking for a representative for each family and group to come up and get their Faith 5 sheets for this week. Remember to invite anyone who doesn't have family members present to join in with another group. Give groups 5 minutes to work on their Faith 5. Afterward, invite the adults to head to their own classes.

Say: **As we think today about all that God has given us, let's practice saying the Apostles' Creed together again. I'm wondering this time, if one of you from the preschool or early elementary classes would come up front and help lead us.** Say that Apostles' Creed. Then together see how far the group can get on the meaning of the first article.

Close by singing the Old Testament Books of the Bible song or any other favorites as time allows.

Family Faith 5

October 27, 2013

1. Each person shares their high and low (the best and worst things that happened this week.)
2. Read together this Bible Verse:
“... for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”
3. Talk about how the Bible verse relates to your highs and lows.
4. Pray aloud for one another's highs and lows.
5. Bless one another. Make the sign of the cross on each other's heads and say these words: _____ , may God's glory surround you today!

Preschool

Materials Needed:

- Spark Story Bible
- Variety of sizes of boxes the children can stack
- One small/medium sized box painted gold (or wrapped in gold paper).
- CD Player
- CD of “Solomon’s Temple” Song¹
- Musical Instruments or supplies for kids to make their own (such as:

Before the Children Arrive:

Clear a large space in the room and set out the boxes. If you’re not planning on having the kids make their own musical instruments, ask your gathering leader or Sunday School superintendent if the Sunday School has any musical instruments that you can use during class today.

Experiencing the Story:

Welcome children into the classroom. Show them the boxes and how the boxes can be stacked up on one another. Give them time to play with stacking and moving the boxes. Offer some challenges (such as asking how high they can stack the boxes, if they can make a tunnel to crawl through, etc.)

Then say: **Wow! You are great at building! Today we are going to read a story about a very special building that David’s son Solomon built. Let’s put our box blocks away for right now and read the story.** Help kids move the blocks to a spot in the room where they will be out of the way during the reading of the story. If kids are feeling sad about having to put the blocks away, let them know that you will give them some more time to play with the boxes later.

Read “Solomon Builds the Temple” (Spark Story Bible pages 136-139).

Say: **Let’s get back out our boxes and pretend to build a temple for God like Solomon did!** Help the kids to arrange the boxes to build “walls” so that the kids can walk into the center of their building. Then say: **Here’s a special box**

¹ This song comes from Psalty’s Kids Praise

you can put inside. Remember that the people put the special gold box called the Ark of the Covenant inside the temple. Wherever the Ark of the Covenant was, that was where God was! Let the kids carry the special gold box into their box building and leave it in the center. Then have the kids come up out and look at their work.

Say: Great job! I'm so excited that we worked together to build such a beautiful temple! You know what? Solomon and all his helpers were very happy about the temple that they built too! They were so happy that they had a really big party to celebrate!

I think we should have a celebration too! What do you think? Great! Let's do it. First of all, we need some musical instruments to help us celebrate.

If you have lots of time left in your hour, you can have the kids make musical instruments like the ones below. If you are running short on time, you might use some musical instruments that your Sunday School has or some that you prepared ahead of time. If you are running short on time, and don't have any musical instruments prepared, just have kids clap their hands!

Play the "Solomon's Temple" song² while the kids march around the temple playing their musical instruments.

Activity Options:

1. **Snack- Yummy Construction:** Give kids stackable cubes of cheese, carrots, or other veggies to make their own edible constructions.
2. **Musical Instruments in the Bible:** Musical instruments that were common in Bible days included harps, lyres (kind of like guitars!), tambourines, trumpets made of metal and those made of ram's horn called shofars, cymbals, and flutes. Make your own versions of a couple of these instruments following these instructions:

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1000000000000000000000>

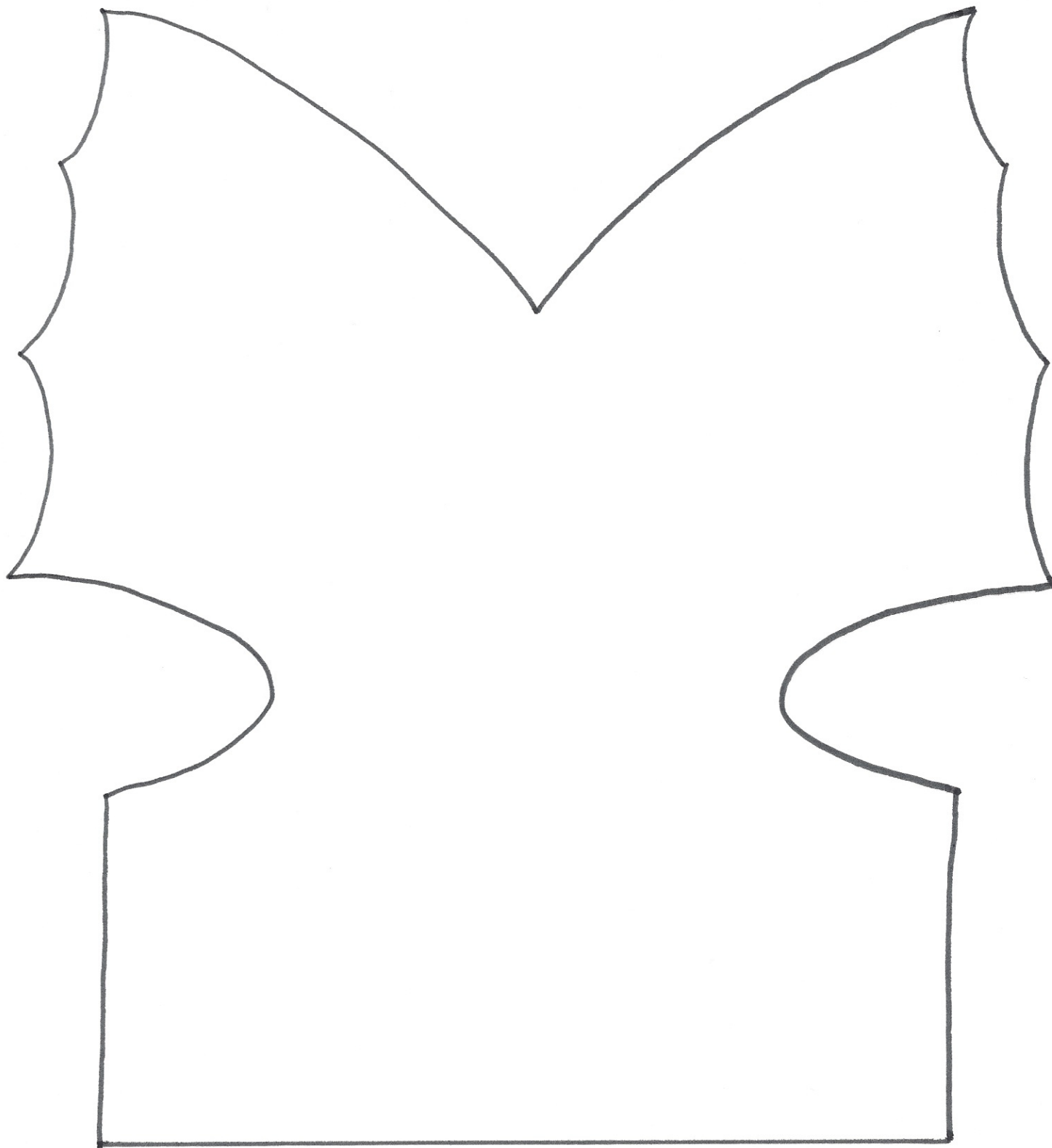
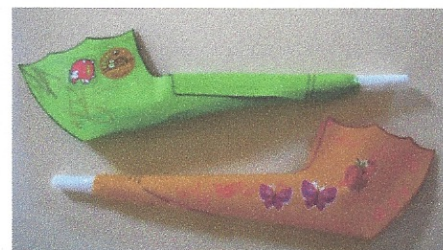


Shofar: A Ram's Horn Trumpet

Cut out this shape.

Roll around the plastic piece
of a party noisemaker.

Tape and blow!





Harp:

The harp was an instrument that David was especially good at playing!

Instructions

Each child will need one cereal box. Cover the boxes with construction paper. Allow children to choose what color paper they want to use. Assist them in completely covering the box.

Decorate the box. Give children markers, stamps and stickers to decorate their harp. Allow them to have creative freedom with this step. Help them write their names on the bottom of the box.

Lay the box flat on its back and cut a rectangle out of the front of the box, leaving a border around the edge. The border should be half an inch to one inch wide, all the way around. Do this part yourself, as it will be too tricky for preschoolers.

Turn the box horizontally and wrap rubber bands around the box. Give the children freedom to choose how many rubber bands and what color rubber bands they would like use. The rubber bands can be as close together or as far apart as the preschooler would like them to be, but spacing the rubber bands at least half an inch apart will give their fingers more room to strum.

Early Elementary

Materials Needed:

- Spark Story Bible
- Shoe box
- Gold paper or paint
- Copies of 10 commandments shape book (1 per student on gray paper or cardstock)
- Sissors
- Stapler or hole punch and string

Before the Students Arrive:

Wrap a shoe box in gold paper (or paint it gold). Print the 10 commandments pages on gray paper or attach to foam so that it looks as if it is on stone. Place these two stone tablets inside the gold box and set the box in the center of the table where students will notice it as they enter the room.

Experiencing the Story:

Welcome students into the classroom. As they gather, draw their attention to the box. Say: **I have here a special box. I'm wondering if you can guess what is inside this box?** Give the students a few chances to guess. **Before we open our box and see if you are right, let's read our story for today.** Read "Solomon Builds the Temple" (Spark Story Bible page 136). Say: **Now that we have read our story for today, what do you think might be in this box? Let's check and see if you are right.** Have the students help you open the box and pull out the "stone tablets." Read together what is written on the tablets. Say: **Do any of you know what these are? You're right! These are the 10 Commandments. Back when Moses helped God's people get free from slavery, God gave the people these commandments (or laws) so that they would know how God wanted them to love God and love each other. All the time that they were traveling to the land that God promised them, they carried the commandments in a special gold box called the Ark of the Covenant. God promised that he would be where ever the Ark of the Covenant was.**

Did you hear the Ark of the Covenant talked about in our story today? What did you hear about it? (Give students time to answer. If needed, let them look back at the Story Bible) Say: **Solomon, David's son wanted to build a**

beautiful house for God. So he made a special room in a beautiful temple for the Ark of the Covenant to be put in. And all the people came to the temple to worship God!

But you know what? After a while, the people got so happy to have a beautiful temple and fancy houses and everything going well for them that they forgot keeping the commandments that teach about loving God and each other... and then trouble happened. We'll find out more about what happened later. For right now, though I want to talk some more about these commandments! These 10 commandments help us to know how God wants us to live. Did you know that Martin Luther wrote about these 10 Commandments? The 10 commandments are in the Small Catechism that Martin Luther wrote just like the Apostles Creed is. Martin Luther wrote about what each of the commandments means so that kids and families could learn them together!

Activity:

Say: Today our activity is going to be to make our own book of the 10 commandments and what they mean so that we can learn them together with our families. In fact, each of you are going to get to make and take home your own book today! So, here's what we need to do. We're going to cut some paper into the shape of stone tablets. When God first gave Moses the 10 commandments they were written on stone tablets, so that's why these are in that shape. On each page of our book is one of the commandments. After we make our book, we'll draw some pictures to show what that commandment means. Give each student a copy of the commandment book printed on gray paper or cardstock (printing front and back will save paper and time cutting!) Once the pieces are cut out, staple together or punch holes in the side and show students how a string can be threaded up and down through the holes and tied off at the ends to bind the book. Read through the 10 commandments talking about what each of the commandments means.³ Encourage children to draw pictures illustrating that meaning. Send the books home with the kids to read with their families.

³ There are different ways to number the 10 commandments. Since we are using the Spark Story Bible, the 10 commandments used in these take home books are the same to avoid confusing the kids. These don't exactly match up though with the numbering in the Small Catechism.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1

I AM GOD, THE ONLY GOD. HONOR ME ABOVE ALL
OTHER THINGS AND PEOPLE.

2

THERE ARE NO OTHER GODS FOR YOU, ONLY ME.



3

MY NAME IS SPECIAL, DON'T USE IT WITH BAD
WORDS OR MEAN TALK.



4

TAKE A DAY OF REST EACH WEEK.
CALL IT THE SABBATH, AND MAKE IT A SPECIAL
DAY FOR GOD.

5

SHOW YOUR MOM, DAD, AND OTHERS WHO
TAKE CARE OF YOU LOVE AND RESPECT.



6

DON'T HURT OTHERS
WITH YOUR WORDS OR ACTIONS

7

IF YOU GET MARRIED, YOU MUST BE LOYAL TO
YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE.

DON'T TAKE THINGS THAT AREN'T YOURS.

9

TELL ONLY THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR
FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND EVEN THOSE
YOU DO NOT KNOW.



10

BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE. DON'T WISH
FOR THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE.

Upper Elementary Middle School & High School

***Please note that if your upper elementary, middle school, and high schoolers are in the same classroom you will need an additional teacher today to split the class into two separate groups.**

Materials Needed:

- Bibles
- Small catechisms
- 2 sheets of gray foam board
- Large (4' x 2') sheet of foam board
- Two large cardboard boxes (4' x 2' x 1')⁴
(Or as close of a large box as you can find!)
- 2 rolls of gold wrapping paper⁵
- Permanent marker or gray paint pen
- Gray paint
- 2 foam cones
- Gold paint
- Gold paint pen
- 4 wire hangers
- Hot glue gun
- Packing tape
- 2 long dowels or old broom handles (ideally spray painted gold)
- Optional: fog machine

Before the Students Arrive:

Lay out all the construction materials that the students will need on the table.
Talk to your pastor and/or the lector for this Sunday to let them know that you

⁴ Available at: http://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/S-4848/Corrugated-Boxes-200-Test/48-x-24-x-12-Corrugated-Boxes?pricode=WU329&gadtype=pla&id=41136065362&gclid=Cluw1r_C_bcCFWhp7AodRQIArg&gclsrc=aw.ds

⁵ Available at: http://www.wrapwithus.com//Products/Gold-Wrapping-Paper_239701-am.aspx?gclid=CJD48qa2_bcCFXRo7Aod5CwA6w

are plans for carrying in their Ark of the Covenant during the reading this morning. Ask if it works to have you place the Ark on the altar or if there is another location that would work better this morning. Decide if you want to go all out with the use of a fog machine to add to the description of the cloud filling the temple! (If you do intend to use a fog machine, alert the ushers before the service so they aren't concerned about it being smoke!)

Experiencing the Story:

Try to get the students seated and ready to listen as quickly as possible today as they will need the full amount of class time for their project. Say: **We've been asked to help with something special during worship today. You can see from all the materials I have laid out here that it is going to involve some construction. Before I give you the details on what we need to build, let's quickly get to reading our story this morning.** Give students a copy of the Bible passage at the beginning of this lesson in your leaders guide or ask students to read from an already marked Bible 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:1-13.

Say: **What we are going to be building today is the Ark of the Covenant.** Show students a couple of pictures of how we think the Ark of the Covenant may have looked based on the descriptions given in the Bible. **The upper elementary class is going to be making the 10 commandments to go inside and the middle school / high school class will be making a replica of the ark. So... let's get started!**

Activity:

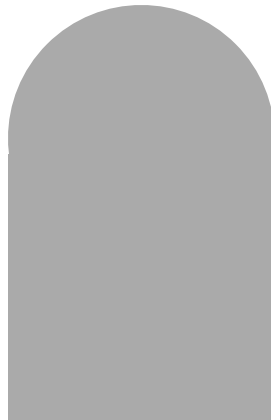
Give each group of kids the corresponding instruction sheet. Provide guidance as needed to help them complete their projects. If desired, pairs or smaller groups of students can be assigned to work on a particular piece together (such as one pair working on the construction of the boxes for the Ark of the Covenant while another pair works on the mercy seat, etc.)

Say: **Now, there's one more thing. During the reading this morning, we'll be carrying in the Ark of the Covenant with the commandments inside. So we'll sit together as a class toward the back and sneak out just before the reading to get the Ark and carry it in. We'll walk in right at the part where the reader says, "Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place...."**

Instructions for the 10 Commandments

1. The 10 Commandments were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai on their journey out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land. The 10 commandments can be found in the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 5. They can also be found in the Small Catechism. Look them up.

2. The 10 commandments were written on two stone tablets. Cut two pieces of foam board into a shape like this:
But much larger!



3. Use a paint pen or permanent marker to write the 10 commandments on the tablets.

4. If you have time (and would like to) you may take a tiny bit of paint and with a paper towel smudge it around on your board to make your foam look more like stone. Use a hair dryer to speed up the drying time.

5. Put your stone tablets inside the Ark of the Covenant the other kids are building before the mercy seat (lid) is put on.

Instructions for the Ark of The Covenant

The Ark

When God gave instructions for building the ark of the covenant, it was to be two and a half cubits long by 1 and a half cubits wide by 1 and a half cubits tall. A cubit measurement was the length of your elbow to the tips of your fingers. Since everyone's arms are a little different, everyone's cubits are a little different too. Generally speaking, though, a cubit can be considered to be about 18 inches long. Since we don't have time to build a box of wood or melted gold during this class, we are going to use cardboard boxes that are as close to that size as we can. The boxes you'll be using are 4 feet by 2 feet by 1 when two of these boxes are stacked on top of each other, that's about the same size as the Ark of the Covenant would have been. To start construction the ark, follow these instructions:

1. Unfold one of the boxes and tape it together to form a closed box. Be sure that all the sides lay down as flat and tightly as possible.
2. Unfold and tape the second box so that just the top flaps are left open.
3. Cut off the top flaps of the open box.
4. Attach the open box to the top of the closed one with packing tape.
5. Wrap the whole thing in gold wrapping paper.
6. Attach two long dowels or polls to the bottom of the box. The box should be able to be carried on the polls (the polls go under the box the long way.)

The Mercy Seat

The “lid” of the Ark of the Covenant is called the mercy seat. On the mercy seat are two cherubim. We don’t know exactly what cherubim would have looked like, but imagine figures facing each other with wings outstretched toward each other covering the ark. To make the mercy seat, follow these instructions:

1. Cover a 4’ by 2’ piece of foam board with gold wrapping paper.
2. Paint 2 foam cones with gold paint or cover with gold wrapping paper.
3. Cover 4 hangers (or wire “wings”) with gold wrapping paper.
4. Stick two hangers or wings into each of the foam cones to look like the wings of the cherubim are outstretched over the ark.
5. Attach one of the foam cones to each of the short sides of the foam board.
(Using tape or hot glue)
6. Use a gold paint pen to add any details you would like to to the cherubim
(such as drawing in feathers on the wings.)
7. After the ark of the covenant has been completed and the 10 commandment stone tablets have been placed inside the ark, put the mercy seat on the top of the ark to close it up. Attach with hot glue and/or packing tape as needed.

Here are a few ideas of what the ark may have looked like:

