

Day 1

August 7



Pray | Give thanks to God for his provisions.

THE PEOPLE of the Old Testament usually thought of their church being a place, or physical structure. Today's church of Jesus Christ infinitely expands on that idea and the church is no longer a place, but a gathering of believers in Christ.

God provided King Solomon with a period of peace that had never been seen in Israel. This gave Solomon the opportunity to plan great things for Israel. The temple of God, or as Solomon called it, "The House of the Lord," would be one of his greatest accomplishments.



Read | 1 Kings 5:1-18



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

There are many massive structures in the world today: sky scrapers, statues, and government buildings. The bigger, the better; the more magnificent, the more attention. Are you living so others will notice your accomplishments?

Reflect on the amount of laborers Solomon sought for the building of the house. Imagine the planning and preparation that must have taken place before any of the building began. What does this tell you about Solomon's character?

There are many examples around the world of one nation providing help or assistance to another in building great things. For example, the Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States by France. When have you gone out of your way to help others and why?

Day 2

August 8



Pray | Praise God for all the details of life, big and small.

IMPATIENCE FOR results can sometimes cause us to miss the small beautiful details, or to be unappreciative of hard work and effort.

There are a few occasions in the Bible where a lot of time is spent on details that we may see as meaningless. A cursory read through the book of Leviticus would be a good example of this. However, there are no meaningless details or stories in the Bible. It all points to Jesus Christ. Keep this in mind when reading today's scripture.



Read | 1 Kings 6:1-37



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

The detail provided in today's reading is enormous. Why do you think the text is written this way and how might it point to Jesus Christ?

Think of a few moments in your life where you described something in great detail such as: a building, a memory, or something in nature. Do you ever speak to others about your walk with Christ with as much detail or excitement?

Solomon was trying to communicate God's greatness to the world through the temple. How do you communicate God's greatness to others?

Day 3

August 9



Pray | Ask God to forgive your sinful nature.

THE BEST INTENTIONS can sometimes be overshadowed by selfishness, greed, need for power, or desire for accolades.

Where we spend our time, money, and where our loyalties lie tell us a lot about ourselves, what our priorities are, or even who our hearts belong to.



Read | 1 Kings 7:1-12



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Today's reading indicates Solomon spent almost twice as many years building his palace than he spent building God's temple. Solomon's palace was also much larger than the temple. As wise as Solomon is considered to have been, what does this disparity in size, time, and effort, tell you about his heart?

With today's verses in mind, in what ways are you similar to Solomon and in what ways are you different than Solomon?

It is thought by some Bible scholars that the building of Solomon's palace delayed or lengthened the time it took to building the temple. What things or activities in your life keep you from spending time in prayer, attending church services, or reading the Bible?

Day 4
August 10



Pray | Give thanks to God for his presence.

GOD's PRESENCE can manifest itself in several ways. If you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God's presence dwells within you by the Holy Spirit.

For the Israelites during this period, the Ark of the Covenant was the ultimate manifestation of God's presence. Also, the tablets containing the Law of Moses were kept inside of it. The sinful nature of the Israelites would later reveal the true limitations of the Ark. The prophet Jeremiah would later say, "The law will be written on your hearts." A relationship with Christ is infinitely powerful. The only ones that know what is truly in your heart are you and the Lord. If you are seeking a relationship with Jesus, open your heart to him, repent and ask for forgiveness of your sins, and follow his ways.



Read | 1 Kings 8:1-21



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

The Ark of the Covenant was one of many things that set Israel apart from the rest of the world. If you are a follower of Christ, what is it about you that makes you different from non-believers? If you don't know Christ, what step can you take to move closer to him today?

The temple was a place for the Israelites to gather to worship, to be close to God, perform religious ceremonies, and make sacrifices. How is the way you worship different and how is it similar to what took place at the temple?

1 Kings 8:11 indicates God's presence was so glorious and overwhelming the priests were unable to stay standing. There are many emotions that can cause someone to be unable to stand: laughter, sadness, or overwhelming joy. Have you ever been so overwhelmed by God's presence that it caused some type of physical reaction in you? Describe your reaction and what exactly caused it.

Day 5
August 11



Pray | Praise God for keeping his promises.

GOD WANTED to communicate to the world through the temple that he is the one and only God. Israel is described as God's chosen nation, but he did not choose them for their own sake, but for the sake of the world.

God chose Israel for us and for all nations. The temple was a fulfillment one of God's greatest promises. God also promised a son that would save humanity from themselves. God always keeps his promises.



Read | 1 Kings 8:54-61



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Christ's followers are the temple of today. How should we communicate this truth to world?

Think of the people you associate with the most. In what ways have you represented Christ to them, or how have they represented Christ to you?

There are no limits to God. No person and no object can contain him. If you tend to keep God to yourself, what are some ways you can unleash him and let others know about his true nature?

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