Crafts

Craft Activity: Solomon's Temple Model

Objective:
Create a simple model of Solomon's Temple to help elementary students understand 1 Kings 8, which describes the dedication of the Temple and the importance of having a special place to worship God.

Materials Needed:
- Cardboard boxes (shoe-box size works well)
- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons
- Craft sticks (popsicle sticks)
- Aluminum foil
- Small stones or pebbles
- Gold or yellow pipe cleaners
- Tape

Instructions:

1. Base of the Temple:
- Start with a cardboard box as the base for the Temple. This will serve as the main structure.

2. Outer Walls:
- Cut construction paper into pieces to cover the sides of the box. Let students decorate these pieces to resemble stone bricks using markers or crayons.
- Glue the decorated sheets onto the sides of the box.

3. Columns:
- Using craft sticks, create columns for the temple. Wrap the sticks in aluminum foil to give them a metallic look.
- Attach these to the front of the box to represent the columns of the Temple.

4. Roof:
- Cut a sheet from the construction paper to fit the top of the box as the roof. Choose a bright color to represent the grandeur of the temple and tape it in place.

5. Decoration:
- Form small altar figures using stones or pebbles and glue them at the front to symbolize the altar space.
- Use gold or yellow pipe cleaners to contrast the result; shape them into crowns or lines to represent decorative elements in Solomon's Temple.

6. Ark of the Covenant:
- Use a small piece of cardboard or a matchbox to create a miniature Ark of the Covenant.
- Decorate it with markers and wrap it in a piece of foil to make it look special.
- Place it inside the temple structure.

7. Assembly:
- Once all pieces are completed, help students arrange their temples, ensuring that any smaller elements like the Ark stay secure.

Reinforcement of the Lesson:

- Discuss with the students the elements of the Temple as described in 1 Kings 8. Explain how the model represents the sacred space where people could connect with God.
- Relate how God's presence filled the temple during the dedication.
- Encourage students to think about why having a special place for worship is important and what it means to show reverence and honor to God.

This craft gives students a tactile way to grasp the significance of the Temple by engaging their creativity while reinforcing the historical and spiritual importance of the biblical event.