

# What is WORSHIP?

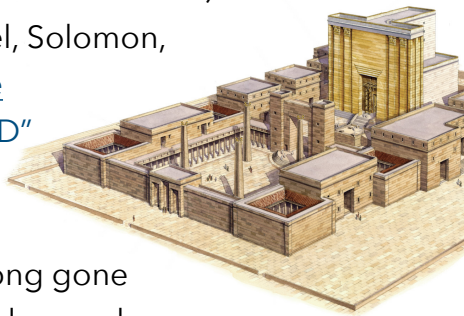
Part 4 **Worship Then & Now**  
**The TEMPLE**

On Wednesdays this month we're looking at worship **"then and now."** For almost 500 years, the tabernacle was the hub of worship for God's people. At Mount Sinai, God had called the liberated children of Israel through Moses:

*"And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst."* (Exo 25:8)

But God didn't leave it up to Moses' imagination or the people's speculation as to what to build; he gave them a very specific pattern (Exo 25:9-31:18) to follow.

The third king of Israel, Solomon, eventually built *"a house for the name of the LORD"* (1 Kings 5:5; 8:10-11) called the temple.



But the tabernacle is long gone and the temple in Jerusalem no longer stands, **so what now?** Is all lost? Not at all. Listen to the consistent message of the New Testament:

- The God who made the world *"does not live in temples made by man"* (Acts 17:24-25).
- Christians are *"being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit"* (Eph 2:19-22).
- Paul told Christians in Corinth, *"we are the temple of the living God"* (2 Cor 6:16).
- Peter encouraged Christians to realize, *"you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God"* (1 Pet 2:4-5).

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In the age of the tabernacle, what did God promise in **Leviticus 26:11-12**?
- Let's open our Bibles to **2 Corinthians 6:16-18**. Many centuries later, what does the apostle Paul quote? What does he want us to understand by using this ancient passage?
- **Matthew 27:51** tells us that *"the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom"* when Jesus died. What did this mean?
- **Hebrews 8:1-6** describes the tabernacle and priesthood as *"a copy and shadow of the heavenly things"* while drawing attention to Jesus as *"a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man."* What's the big idea here?
- What does it mean for disciples of Jesus today to be *"like living stones ... built up as a spiritual house"* (1 Pet 2:4-5)? What does God want?