

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

[April 11-17: Read 1 Kings 8, Psalm 84 & Acts of the Apostles 5](#)

1 Kings 8

The Temple dedication prayer of King Solomon is one the best prayers recorded in the Bible. God is everywhere present, yet, there is something special about God's house.

Further Study & Discussion

- We are more than one year into the shutdown and we haven't worshiped inside the sanctuary in over a year. As you read this prayer and the focus on the importance of God's house, how are you feeling?
- Jesus told us that the Holy Spirit resides with us and where two or three are gathered, there's church. Is there a contradiction here? How can God be with us while we worship at home and yet the physical church be so important?
- Which line in Solomon's prayer strikes a chord with you?

Psalm 84

This is a song about the joy of worshiping in the house of the Lord. This complements the above chapter.

Further Study & Discussion

- Which verse lifts up your spirit?
- Talk about the times you came to church to worship. What was the best part?

Acts of the Apostles 5

The early church was like Paradise according to 2:43-47. But not quite. Ananias & Sapphira reminded them that church was filled with sinners struggling with their sins.

Further Study & Discussion

- The story of Ananias and Sapphira reminds us that the church is not a gathering of the righteous, but it's full of sinners who continue to sin as they celebrate the joy of God's grace. Talk about this truth.
- Ananias and Sapphira sinned against God and the church. But did they deserve death as a result? Where's a chance at repentance and forgiveness? Talk about this. Why was it important for God to do that?
- The apostles were so bold for their faith. They weren't so bold when Jesus was arrested and killed. Where did their boldness come from?