

## LIVING FAITH: Chapter 13

*Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.*

This activity requires a 20-ounce plastic bottle, warm water, vinegar and baking soda. It's best to complete this activity outside or in a sink. As you watch the baking soda and vinegar react and fizz out of the bottle, think about what it would've been like to watch God's presence come down and fill the temple.

Start by putting about two tablespoons of baking soda in the bottom of the bottle. Quickly add a ½ cup of vinegar and ¼ cup of warm water. Step back and watch the bottle fill with foam that bursts out of the top.

When Solomon prayed for the temple, God's presence came down. Second Chronicles 7:2 says, "The priests couldn't enter the temple of the Lord. His glory filled it." Can you imagine God's tangible presence filling a building? It was so powerful that people who witnessed it, dropped to their knees and worshiped God.

For a bonus activity after discussing God's powerful presence at his temple, get a plastic zipper bag to demonstrate that God's glory can't be contained. Be careful as the bag will explode and may create a mess.

This time put a couple of tablespoons of baking soda in a paper towel and fold it up. Pour a ½ cup of vinegar and a ¼ cup of water into the plastic zipper bag. Drop in the paper towel and quickly zip the bag closed. Give a quick shake to start the reaction, then put the plastic bag on the ground and step away. The bag should puff up and pop with a loud bang.

### **Extra Mile**

Idea #1: Money wasn't an issue for Solomon. God blessed him with such vast riches that the Bible says silver had little value in Solomon's kingdom and that the king drank out of a gold goblet. So when Solomon built God's temple, he spared no expense.

Even though Solomon had 180,000 workers and 4,000 supervisors on the project, the temple took seven years to complete. It was one of the most majestic structures of the day. Nearly 500 years after the Israelites left Egypt, God's temple was complete.

Take a digital video tour of the temple by going to YouTube. Read 1 Kings 6 as you watch: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFnWTz-710E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFnWTz-710E)

- Did anything stand out to you in the video?
- Is there any part of the description of the temple that seems especially majestic?

## LIVING FAITH: Chapter 14

*Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.*

### Living Faith

You don't run into a lot of golden cow worshipers at church these days. But the problem of idols still plagues God followers. Anything that comes before God in your life could be an idol, especially if you look to that thing for comfort or satisfaction. Have all family members fill out the chart to see how they spend their time. At the end, answer some questions to see if any idols have crept into your daily life.

### On average how much time each day do you spend doing these things?

Activity:	Watching TV	Playing Video Games	Texting/talking on phone	Reading Bible and praying	Shopping	Being on the Computer
Time Spent:						

None of the activities are in and of themselves sinful; however, if they consume all your time and pull you away from God, they could become an idol. In today's society money, fame, possessions, career advancement, popularity and other things rule people's lives. Ask:

- What area in your life do you think has the greatest possibility of becoming an idol?
- How can you prevent that from happening?
- What changes can you make in your schedule to show God that he's first in your life?

### Extra Mile

Only the one true God is worthy of our worship. King Solomon opened the door to idol worship, and then Israel and Judah forsook the Lord to follow false gods.

Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhJYN2Hk\\_FQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhJYN2Hk_FQ) and watch the video of Matthew Ward's song "I Will Worship You." Have a pencil and paper ready. Write down all of the characteristics of God mentioned in the song. "My God is faithful, truthful . . ."

- Think about the things people worship today (fame, money, etc.). Can any of those things boast the same characteristics that God possesses?
- One of the lines says, "I will worship you for the things you've done in me." Have family members share something the Lord has done in them.
- Deuteronomy 6:13 says, "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve." Write that verse on an index card and stick it on the refrigerator. Encourage everybody in your family to memorize it this week. Plan something fun as a family if everybody accomplishes this goal.