

LESSON 35

The Tabernacle

EXODUS 25–26



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD LIVES AMONG HIS PEOPLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Nine sheets of copy paper folded in an accordion fanfold, parallel to the short side

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 35)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 35

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Barrier Curtain

SUPPLIES: a piece of fabric (preferably blue, purple, or red)

Worship Then and Now

Tabernacle Race

SUPPLIES: blocks; whiteboard and dry erase marker

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will hear how God gave Moses instructions to build a tent for God to live among his people.

For this introduction, prepare nine sheets of copy paper folded in an accordion fanfold, parallel to the short side.

Use the fanfolded sheets to make a model of the tabernacle that the children will soon hear about in the Bible story. The fanfolded sheets represent the curtain walls. Stand the fanfolded sheets on end forming a rectangle: one sheet wide and three sheets long. Then use the last sheet as a dividing curtain on the inside to form a square room on the one side of the rectangle.

Explain to the children that the tabernacle was made up of curtains in the shape of a rectangle with two rooms. The smaller square room was called the Most Holy Place. The larger room was called the Holy Place. Ask them which of the two rooms they think God’s presence lived in, the Holy Place or the Most Holy Place? Leave the tabernacle model set up on a table or desk for the children to see while you read the Bible story.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 35, “The Tabernacle,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in this story?**
(God gave Moses instructions to make a special tent for the Lord.)

- **How did Moses know how the tent was to be built?**
(God gave Moses special instructions for the construction of the tent.)

- Since the furniture for the tent was made of gold, Moses wondered where he was going to get the expensive materials to build the tent. Where did God tell Moses the expensive gold and rich cloth would come from?

(God told Moses the Israelites would give it to him out of what the Egyptians gave to them as they left Egypt.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- Did the people respond and bring Moses the gold and other items he needed to build the tabernacle?

(Yes, they responded enthusiastically and brought him more than he needed, so much that he had to tell them to stop giving.)

- Who made the items for the tabernacle?

(God gave special skills to workmen to make the gold and wood articles for the tabernacle.)

- Why did Moses make the tabernacle in pieces that could come apart?

(Moses made the tabernacle to come apart so that the Israelites could take it with them wherever they traveled.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 35—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Who can name some of the parts of the tabernacle?

(Exodus 25—27 tells us the parts of the tabernacle were: the Holy Place, the Most Holy Place, the curtain dividing the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, the ark of the

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Matthew 27:50–54

Here we read about the temple in Jerusalem and what happened there at the moment Jesus died. The temple was arranged just like the tabernacle that God described to Moses. There was an inner court of two rooms. The Holy Place was the first room. Within it was a room called the Most Holy Place, which was also called the Holy of Holies. A curtain divided the two rooms. The curtain was like a barrier between God and man. Only the high priest could pass through the curtain and enter the Holy of Holies. He did this only once a year as a mediator between God and man. Each year he offered a sacrifice for the sins of the people. This sacrifice had to be repeated year after year because it was not a perfect sacrifice.

But Jesus came as the perfect sacrifice. When he died on the cross, the temple curtain was torn in half. The barrier between God and man was ripped in two. God wanted everyone to understand that Jesus' sacrifice was enough to forgive all sins for all time. God would not dwell in a temple or tabernacle any longer. Now he would dwell in and among his people. From that moment on, God's people became the temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19). Now his presence dwells continually in the hearts of Christians.

covenant, the golden lamp stand, the table, and the incense altar. Outside the tabernacle were the courtyard walls, the bronze altar, and the basin.)

- **What were the walls made out of?**
(thick curtains so the people could not see inside to the most holy place where the presence of the Lord dwelled)
- **Does God have a tabernacle today?**
(Yes, God has a living tabernacle today. He dwells in the hearts of Christians.)

See Ephesians 3:16–17 (NIV): “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

The Barrier Curtain

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ fabric remnant (preferably blue, purple, or red)

Explain to the class that God’s presence lived in the smallest room in the tabernacle called the Most Holy Place. There was a curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn that blocked anyone from entering the Most Holy Place. Only the priest who was specially dressed could go into the presence of God. The people never went into the presence of God.

Read to them what happened to a similar curtain in the temple after Jesus died: “And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life” (Matthew 27:50–52 NIV).

Jesus’ death made it possible for anyone to come into the presence of God. That is why the curtain tore in two. The curtains that prevented man from coming to God in the Old Testament tabernacle and the New Testament temple have been torn so we can all come into God’s presence.

Worship Then and Now

Review the following steps that the priests, even the high priest, had to do just to go into God’s presence:

He had to take a bath in water.

He had to put on special clothes and a special turban for a hat.

He had to kill a bull as a sin offering for himself.

He had to get two goats, one for a sacrifice and one to send into the wilderness to take away the sins of Israel.

He had to take hot coals into the Most Holy Place and burn incense so he would not die.

He had to take some of the blood from the bull and sprinkle it on the front of the ark seven times and once on the east side.

Then he needed to go back and kill a goat and bring its blood inside the Holy of Holies and sprinkle it on the ark.

Then he would come back out lay his hands on the other goat and send it into the wilderness.

Now, ask the class to point out all the differences they can think of between the worship in the temple and the way we have church now. Take any answer that makes sense, even small differences. Then, ask if anyone knows why we don't do the temple worship anymore today?

The answer, of course, is that Jesus died to take away our sins. He was the perfect Lamb of God that takes away our sins. Ask the class if they know what happened to the curtain protecting the Holy of Holies when Jesus died on the cross? (The curtain was torn in two from top to bottom symbolizing free access to God. Jesus opened the way for us to have the Holy Spirit live in each one of us. We become the new living place for God's presence when we believe.

Tabernacle Race

SUPPLIES:

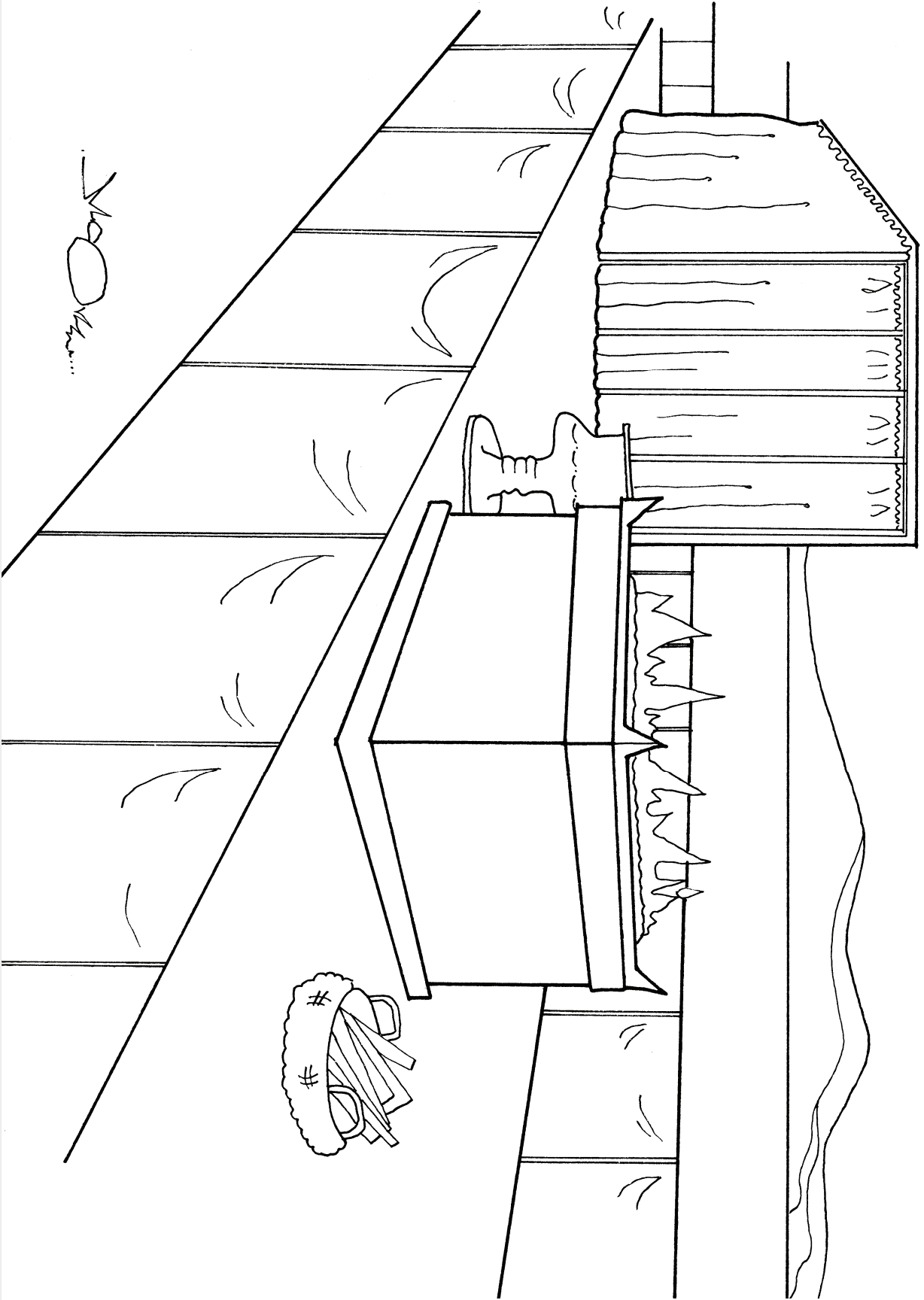
- ✓ blocks—enough to build two tabernacle models
- ✓ whiteboard and dry erase marker

Divide the class into at least two groups. Give each group an equal share of blocks. Explain that the first team to build a tabernacle with their blocks is the winner. Remind them that the tabernacle was a rectangle with two rooms inside. You can draw the basic outline on the whiteboard for them to see as a guide. Give the signal “go.” Watch to see who finishes first and declare that team the winner. Celebrate with the winner and see if they can remember the names of the two rooms. The smaller room is called the Most Holy Place while the larger room is called the Holy Place.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 35 - THE TABERNACLE



Moore