

THE TABERNACLE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 25-27



The STORY

Read "God's Special Tent" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 82).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: the tabernacle. Engage the children by asking:

- 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 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 dwells.)
- 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 "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."

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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.)

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.

The tabernacle was set up to have an inner court of two rooms, the Holy Place was the first room, and within it, the Most Holy Place. The Most Holy Place is also known as the Holy of Holies. A curtain divided the two. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, once a year, as a mediator between God and man. Each year he offered an atoning sacrifice for the people. This sacrifice was not a perfect sacrifice. It has to be repeated year after year. Jesus came as the perfect sacrifice. When He died on the cross, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. God wanted everyone to understand that Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient for all time and that the barrier between man and God had been removed in Christ. God would now tabernacle, or dwell in and among His people. From that moment on, God's people became the temple of God and His presence dwells continually in our hearts. John tells us the Word became flesh and made His dwelling (tabernacled) among us. Note: This reference to John's Gospel is about Jesus dwelling with us upon the earth prior to his ascension. I suggest you use 1Cor. 3:16-19 -- which is what you have been talking about.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.