

**Bible Passage:** Exodus 35-40**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God's people built a tabernacle where they could worship God together. God wants to be with us. God sent Jesus to earth to be with people.**Key Passage phrase:** Let's worship God. Psalm 95:6

## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

One of the key themes of the Bible is God's desire to live with the people He created. We see this first in God's creating the garden of Eden, placing Adam and Eve into this paradise, and then presumably coming down regularly to be with them. But when Adam and Eve rebelled against Creator God, one consequence of their sin was expulsion from the garden. No longer would God live with them as He had before.

Generations later, God instructed His people to do something curious: build a tent. Why? This tent, the tabernacle, would not be a place for treasures or food; no animals or people would live in it. This would be God's tent, where He would dwell among His people, pointing back to Eden. Whenever the Israelites traveled, they broke down this tent and carried it with them. Then, when they arrived at their destination, they set up the tent once more—strategically and meaningfully placed in the center of the camp. God was not just *with* His people, He was at the center of His people. That was the place He deserved.

Note one feature of the tabernacle that would later give way to the permanent temple built in Jerusalem: the veil, or curtain. The innermost chamber of the tabernacle was called the holy of holies, or most holy place. This is where God's presence would be manifested above the ark of the covenant and mercy seat. This sacred area was separated from the next outer chamber—the holy place—by a heavy curtain. We later learn in Leviticus that only the high priest could enter into the holy of holies once a year—on the Day of Atonement. This curtain, then, was a picture of the ongoing separation between humanity and God because of sin. God wanted to dwell with people, but sin was preventing that from happening in full.

When Jesus came and paid the sin penalty for people, that curtain tore from top to bottom, symbolizing that entry into the holy of holies had been made through Jesus. But sin continues to corrupt the world, which is why one day Jesus will return, put an end to sin and death, and renew creation. This is how the story ends in Revelation—with Christ establishing His kingdom in a new heavens and earth, dwelling with His people forever. What God intended from the beginning will mark the beginning of eternity.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Tabernacle:** a portable tent where God met with His people. The word *tabernacle* means “dwelling place.” God wanted to dwell among them. (See Ex. 29:45-46.)

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## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. Help children transition in and feel welcome.

\*\*\* Please remember to reference the class schedules posted in your room for the timing of your class's various activities.

## BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Exodus 35 and tell the following Bible story.

### The People Built the Tabernacle

*SAY God told Moses to build a tabernacle, a tent church, and gave him instructions. Moses asked God’s people to bring supplies to build the tent. People brought gold jewelry, colored yarn, cloth and animal skins, wood, oil, spices, and gemstones. The people worked together to build the tabernacle for God.*

*Part of the tabernacle was made of wood. It had curtains and a roof. Inside, the people made furniture: a table, a lampstand, an ark, and many other parts. The ark was a box covered in gold that held very important items. Every part of the tabernacle was special.*

*God chose Aaron and his sons to serve in the tabernacle. Aaron put on holy clothing that the workers made. He was a priest. Aaron’s sons served God as priests, too.*

*God was in a cloud over the tabernacle. When the cloud covered the tabernacle, God wanted His people to stay where they were. When the cloud went up from the tabernacle, the Israelites moved and took the tabernacle with them. God was always with His people.*

*Christ Connection: God’s people built a tabernacle where they could worship God together. God wants to be with us. God sent Jesus to earth to be with people.*

## ACTIVITY

### Build a block tabernacle

Using the wooden blocks in your room, along with scratch paper, and the Bible story picture, draw the preschoolers’ attention to the people working on the tabernacle in the Bible story picture. Invite children to work together to build a tabernacle like the one in the picture, using the blocks and the paper. Show children how to lay the pieces of paper on top of the blocks to make a “roof” for their tabernacle.

*Say: We worked together to build a tabernacle with blocks and paper. God told Moses and His people to build a tent church called a tabernacle. The people helped by bringing supplies and by working together to build the tabernacle. God was with His people in a cloud over the tabernacle. God’s people built the tabernacle where God could be and where they could worship God together. God wants to be with us. God sent Jesus to earth to be with people.*

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## CRAFT

### Tent Fabric Art

Use provided precut fabric pieces and glue sticks. Allow children to glue the fabric onto a piece of paper. Print: *God told His people to build a tent church* at the top of the construction paper.

*Say: God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. The people used fabric just like this to make the tent church.*

## SNACK AND PRAYER

Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. (Crackers and cups for water located in the cabinet above the sink.) Pray and thank God for the snack.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Before doing closing activities, please have the children help you clean up the toys and materials that have been used today. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let kids work on today's **Bible Story Coloring Page** until their parents arrive. You can also choose a book to read to the children as they color or for those who don't want to color. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged when parents arrive.

When parents arrive to pick up their children, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

- 1) Clean toys with provided alcohol wipes.
- 2) Use sanitizing spray to wipe down tables.
- 3) Sweep up any cracker crumbs or dirt.
- 4) Please return your bin, binder, and sign-in clipboard to the resource room across from Toddler A.