

**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.)

**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

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. As children enter, have them decorate a paper bag. They will place their crafts, coloring pages, and activity pages, in the bag for easy transportation home. After children are finished decorating their bags, line them up outside the classroom along the wall for easy distribution and pick-up.

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

## ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page: Connect the Dots

*Say: God's people worked together to build the tabernacle. It was a place where they could be with God and where they could worship God together. God wants to be with us. God sent Jesus to earth to be with people.*

## 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.*

**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

## CRAFT

### Make a cloud collage

Use the cloud outline. Glue *Let’s worship God. Psalm 95:6* above the cloud. Distribute a page to each child. Lay white and light blue construction paper with glue sticks on the table. Show children how to tear the blue and white construction paper into small pieces. Assist children as needed. There are pre torn pieces available to use as well. Guide preschoolers to glue the torn pieces of paper in the cloud outline. Lead preschoolers to say the key passage phrase. Talk about ways they can worship God.

*Say: Our key passage phrase reminds us to worship God. God’s people worked together to build a tent church for God. They built the tabernacle as a place where they could worship God while they were living in the desert. God was with His people in a cloud over the tabernacle. 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.*

## SNACK AND PRAYER

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story.

When children finish snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

*Say: 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.*

**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

## CLOSING ACTIVITES

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 any used 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.