

## Encounter God - Older Elementary

Exodus 25:1-31:13, 35:4-40:38

January 19, 2025

### Grow in Faith (Info for teachers)

*After God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt but before they reached the Promised Land, they spent forty years wandering in the wilderness. During this time, they had to trust in God and God's directions. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, and the people agreed to follow God's covenant. God also told them to build the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle reflected a permanent temple, but it was designed to be mobile. The Tabernacle served as a place of worship, and it was a visible reminder of God's constant presence on the journey.*

*The instructions for building the Tabernacle were given in elaborate detail. Details such as materials used, measurements, and designs to incorporate were included. The building of the Tabernacle was a huge task, but it was done in community. The Tabernacle, serving as "God's house, was truly a place the people of God could come together and encourage God. Today, the church continues to be a place of Christian community and represents our ongoing connection to God.*

### Come Together

#### Prepare to Learn

#### Faith Focus – We Discover God Together

Supplies – Posters (class pack 6&19)

**Say:** Today's Bible story is really about God's presence. In the Bible, God appeared to people in various times and ways. Sometimes we think that God is not as much active as He was then, or that we don't hear from Him in the way we want to. But God is always with us, even if we don't feel or realize it. Because of Jesus, we can talk to God anytime, anywhere!

**Ask:** Have you ever felt close to God? What was it like? Where were you?

**Say:** We worship God together each Sunday when we are in the sanctuary of a church. When the Israelites were traveling, they did not have a church. They could not construct a permanent building because they were still on a journey to the land God had promised them. So, their place of worship had to be movable. The people worked together to make a special place to connect to God.

We have a lot to listen to so let's pray, then hear our story.

#### Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us places to connect to you. Help us to serve our community so that each person knows your love. Amen.

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### Open the Bible

**Ask:** How many of you have ever hiked up a mountain? Our story today continues our discussion of the Book of Exodus. Who knows which part of the Bible that book is in? (Old Testament). Pop quiz – What are the first 5 books of the OT? (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). What did we talk about last week? (God led the Israelites with columns of clouds and lightning)

This video is a great summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Exodus. [Watch it.](#)

This is [another version](#) of the video.

Symbols of the Tabernacle [video](#).

In person can watch the DVD for review questions if time.

*(Younger kids can have a copy of the hidden pictures in the Tabernacle to keep them busy during the discussion)*

**Say:** God did many good things for the Israelites. He protected them from the plagues of Egypt and parted the Red Sea so that they could cross and escape Pharaoh's army, but they had a hard time believing that he would protect them. He fed them manna in the desert, but they complained about eating the same old food every day.

God led them through the wilderness by a pillar of fire at night and a cloud by day. But when Moses was gone for only a short time, they forgot about God and started worshipping a golden calf. The Israelites often complained and whined when they didn't get their way. When things got hard, they often lost their faith in God. The Israelites often disappointed God, but they did redeem themselves slightly but working together on the Tabernacle.

**Say:** How do we give to God? (let the kids come up with ideas such as giving money, helping the needy, church projects, church missions, etc.). In the coming weeks, we are going to be doing some small service projects for the church which ultimately is service to God.

### Faith Response

*The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.*

#### **1. Ark of the Covenant – Craft**

Kids remember God's presence in their lives. There will be 2 options; one with popsicle sticks for the younger kids and a paper model to make for the older kids.

**Supplies:**

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- Popsicle sticks, cardstock and glue (print copies of the template for the kids to follow)
- Printed templates on cardstock of the items to cut out for the model, scissors, tape.

### Instructions:

**Say:** The Israelites built all the things in the Tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant was built so God could be among them. We are going to make the Ark now so we can remember God's presence in our lives.

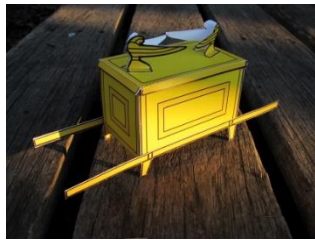
Popsicle stick version:



(Note: in person kids will be working on a slightly different template but this one is available online for those at home).

1. Kids can follow the template instructions to make an Ark. Go to: <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2015/01/08/popsicle-stick-ark-of-the-covenant/>

3D Model:



<https://visualunit.me/2014/07/12/the-ark-of-the-covenant-model/>

Follow the image to assemble the Ark.

## 2. Tabernacle Tent Race – Game

### Instructions:

**Say:** The Israelites built their tabernacle to be movable since they didn't yet have a permanent home. They had to be able to move quickly to pack everything when it was time to travel.

We're going to play a game to see who can set up and get into their tent the fastest.

- Supplies: sheets and set of chairs for each team, music.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Participants must move around the room while the music plays. When the music stops, each team must quickly set up their 'tent' using the sheet and chairs
- Once the tent is successfully set up, the team should gather inside.
- When the music starts again, they must quickly pack up their tent, carry their materials, and continue moving around.
- The goal is to be the fastest team to set up and pack up their tent each time the music stops and starts.

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### **Share Your Faith**

**Supplies:** Poster (8&17), sticky notes, pencils, large paper

**Say:** The Israelites worked together to have a place for God to dwell with His people when we use our gifts and skills to serve God and our community, we can help others feel connected to God.

*Give each child a sticky note and something to write with.*

**Ask:** What are some gifts or talents you can use to serve God and others? **Say:** I want you to write down 2-3 ways, you can use a gift to serve God.

*Invite each child to write to place their sticky note on the large paper. Write the title, "I can serve God by..." on the paper.*

**Say:** When we use our gifts, skills or talents to help other, we can grow closer to God.

In person – Take Home page