

# Lesson 16

Cross

Formed

Kids

How did God make His presence known to the family nation of Israel?

While Israel camped in tents God's presence dwelt in a tent as well, the Tabernacle.

*Read aloud: Exodus 40:34-38*

## **Recommended Illustration**

For this lesson, you want to find the very coolest, most cosmetically beautiful, most outrageously interesting lamp you can possibly find. What we want to get across to them is probably surprising. We're going to use the lamp's amazing COSMETICS to show that these cosmetics are irrelevant if the lamp can't provide light.

Before the lesson, ensure that the lamp either doesn't have a bulb or that the bulb is burnt out or otherwise won't work. Help kids say that the prime gift of citizenship with Israel is the presence of God. Israel is not Israel without his presence any more than a lamp is a lamp without a light.

## **Helpful Insights**

No matter how cool a lamp is, or how intricately designed or appealing to the eye, the most important thing about a lamp is that it actually give light.

Yahweh's presence in Israel is the light for their lamp, the most important thing about them. In fact, this presence of God didn't start with Israel. It started at the very beginning of creation.

Adam and Eve enjoyed the presence of God in the Garden. It's not a brand new thing with Israel. Humans aren't really complete unless we are experiencing God's presence. The more God is present, the more humans are really humans. Humans are living creatures made of dirt. Sure. But they are made alive with God's breath. Part of being really truly human is knowing God. It is the most important part.

It's no different for Israel. God wanted to make Israel into everything humans were supposed to be. A faithful people who bless creation, live by God's wisdom, and enjoy His presence.

In order to make Israel this kind of people, God blessed them with His presence. They didn't have to wonder if God was with them. They knew He was with them because He made His presence known in the tabernacle. He would go with them wherever they traveled. If Israel moved, God moved. He was with them at all times, as their shield and their reward.

### **The Point**

God's presence was promised to Israel as part of their relationship with Him. Along with Torah, this would be the thing that set Israel apart from all the other nations. While Israel dwelt in tents, God made His presence known in a tent as well, The Tabernacle. This presence would assure Israel at all times that they are the people of God, His most treasured possession.

