



Dear Family,

Transitions can be hard. If you move from one house or apartment to a new place, things change. You have new neighbors, maybe new schools, and different routines. Maybe you even feel a little lonely.

God led His people out of Egypt. On their way to a new land, they lived in tents—their new houses. They probably had new neighbors, new routines. Maybe they were a little lonely.

God didn't abandon His people. He wanted to be in their midst and visible. So God commanded His people to build Him a tent. The people were generous and brought abundant offerings. They used their skills. Now a part of what God had given them became a part of God's new home, His tabernacle.

As you journey through life, God wants to dwell with you too. He doesn't want you to be lonely. He wants to be near you. He comes to you in His Word and Sacraments. He richly and daily provides for your needs. He even offered His Son, Jesus, to be your Savior from sin. Daily, He forgives your sins and sets you on your journey to His heavenly home. In thanks and praise to Him, He invites you to give offerings and to live for Him.

Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 121–123 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).



Week 40

Building the Tabernacle

Long ago, God's people lived in tents. These were their homes as they traveled to the land God promised them. God loved His people very much. He wanted to dwell with His people. He told Moses His plan for a big tent called a tabernacle.

Moses invited the people to bring offerings. The offerings would help make God's new tent home beautiful. Soon they came, men and women, boys and girls. They brought so much that there was more than enough.

The tabernacle was shaped like a big rectangle. It had special rooms called the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Instead of wooden walls, it had curtains of red, blue, and purple cloth. The curtains were made of colored threads made into fine linen cloth. Pictures of angels were sewn into the cloth. The workers made special clothing for the priests.

(*) God picked two skilled men to train and lead the workers. These workers made golden lampstands and altars. They also made a fancy gold chest called the ark of the covenant. This held reminders of God's grace and promise (covenant).

When the tabernacle was finished, a cloud covered the tent. The glory of

the Lord filled the tabernacle. When the cloud moved, the people of God would move. When the cloud rested, the people rested too. God was with them wherever they would go.

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

Exodus 36:1-7 tells of the joy the people of Israel had in giving. They brought so much in thanks to God, they had to be told to stop. How do you and your family share your blessings to show gratitude for God's gifts to you?

Bible Words

[I] will be your God,
and you shall be
My people.
Leviticus 26:12