

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will have opportunities to

- * learn about the Tabernacle, a large moveable tent built as a special place to worship God;
- * use their time and skills to serve God through the church.

Note: Each activity in this station involves creating worship objects for your sanctuary. Consult with your worship committee and pastor about which articles would be particularly appreciated. Think about a special way to present these objects to your church.

STATION SETUP

Display a picture, poster, or wall chart of the Tabernacle.

- Pictures are available in *What's What in the Bible* by Derek Williams (page 24) or on page 13 of this unit.
- You can purchase a "Tabernacle in the Wilderness" poster at www.rockofisrael.org for \$20.00. Search the online store for TTITW.
- You can find a laminated wall chart at www.rose-publishing.com for \$13.99. Search by Product Code for 551L.

Resources
pages 3-7 and 13
picture, poster, or
wall chart of the
Tabernacle

Supplies
poster-mounting
supplies

Supplies

large, heavy piece of fabric or a small tent

Be sure that each leader and shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3–7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

WANT TO DO MORE?

Make the entrance to your space look like a tent. Pitch a small tent in front of the door, or hang fabric from the doorway in the manner of a tent flap so that the children can enjoy the fun of entering a tent as they enter the room.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Check for allergies to any materials being used.
- Encourage the children to handle art supplies and tools sensibly. Use safety scissors.
- Provide smocks for children to protect clothing.

Resources

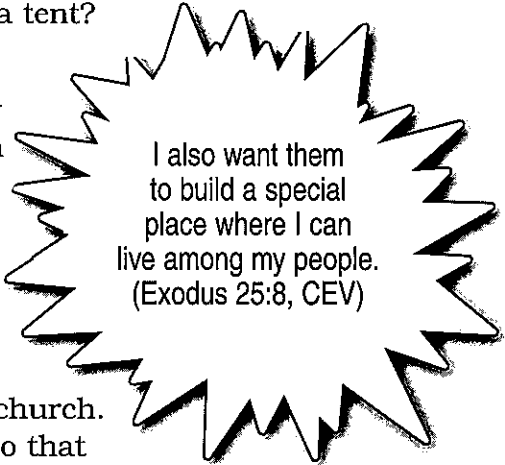
The Children's Bible in 365 Stories by Mary Batchelor

BIBLE STORY (5–10 minutes)

Read story 66, "God's Special Tent," from *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* (page 82).

Ask: Have you ever camped out in a tent? What was in the tent?

Say: When people go camping, they usually have just the basics in their tent. But when the people built a special tent for God, they wanted it to be beautiful. They gave gifts of beautiful cloth and jewels.



I also want them to build a special place where I can live among my people. (Exodus 25:8, CEV)

The same thing is true of our church. Many people have given gifts so that our sanctuary can be a beautiful place to worship God. Today, we are going to make some special things to add to the beauty of our church.



ACTIVITY OPTIONS

(45–50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

For All Ages

Papier-Mâché Communion Set

Prepare

Practice by making a complete Communion set ahead of time. Then tear construction paper squares and make a Communion set form for the children to use during the session. Depending on how much time you will have available, you may want to make most of the paper pulp for the children ahead of time.

Note: Using colored construction paper eliminates the need to paint the finished pieces. The size of your cup and plate and the number of sets you make will determine how much paper you will need. A full pack of 9-by-12 single-color paper will be enough to make a dinner-size plate and a cup that is the size of a coffee mug. Additional paper will be needed for a stem on the goblet-style cup or a larger plate.

Think carefully about how much of the forming using chicken wire you want to allow children to do. That part of the process should be considered for older children only and with adequate adult supervision.

FORMING THE CUP AND PLATE

1. Find a cup that has the shape you want and use it to help mold the chicken wire.
2. Wear leather work gloves to protect your hands and give you added strength in shaping the chicken wire.
3. Cut a piece of chicken wire that is twice the height of the cup and wide enough to wrap around the cup several times. It is best to use one piece of chicken wire for each cup. Using several pieces does not yield a sturdy piece.
4. Wrap the chicken wire around the cup to get the basic shape. You will need several layers of chicken wire so the wire will become a denser framework for application of the paper pulp.
5. To make a goblet-style cup, start with a taller piece of chicken wire and wrap it around the cup, leaving more wire at the bottom than at the top. Form the base by pinching in the chicken wire just below the bottom of the cup. Leave the top and bottom open like a flower.
6. Remove the cup used to establish the form and begin folding over the upper edges of the chicken wire to make a rounded edge that hides any sharp edges. Stop occasionally to check that the cup shape has remained intact.

Note

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerxpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.

Supplies

blender
water
colored construction paper
chicken wire
leather work gloves
heavy scissors that will cut chicken wire
china or glass plate and cup for molds
plastic drop cloth
large bowls
small window screen, framed
5-pound bag of flour
plastic wrap
plastic gloves
smocks
matte finish Mod Podge (available from a craft store or www.dickblick.com)
optional: decorative additives such as glitter, dried flowers or leaves, bits of colored thread



Talk Tip

There would not have been a plate and chalice for Communion in the Tabernacle, since taking Communion came later in church history. But the Hebrew people worked hard, like we are working, to make beautiful things for the Tabernacle. What things did they make? How were they used?

7. Pinch in the stem to the desired diameter and form the base of the cup by folding in the edges and pressing the piece down onto a flat surface. Test to make sure the cup form will stand up on its own.
8. Wrap a china or glass plate in plastic wrap and place it upside-down on the table. The pulp will be pressed directly onto the plastic over the bottom of the plate without chicken wire.

Complete the sample set by making the pulp. Use the instructions the children are given.

When you are ready, cover the area where the children will work with a drop cloth.

Another Note: These pieces will not be waterproof and are not suitable for use with food. They should be used solely for symbolic or decorative purposes. If you want to actually use the set to serve Holy Communion, you will need to make plans for that.

- Choose a cup that will become a part of the final piece and is appropriate for drinking. Make the papier-mâché cup so that it becomes a cup holder.
- Place a piece of plastic wrap over the bottom of the plate, allowing for extra diameter of the plastic around the plate edge. Apply the pulp all the way to the edges of this larger plastic circle. Do not try to move the piece while it is wet, but let it dry where it has been made. When the piece is completely dry, turn it over and the papier-mâché plate becomes a holder for the china or glass plate.

With the Children

TO MAKE THE PULP AND CREATE THE COMMUNION SET

1. Let the children tear additional construction paper into 1-inch squares to add to any pulp you may have made for them ahead of time.
2. Fill a blender three-quarters full with water.
3. Put a handful of paper pieces in the water, along with glitter or other decorative additives. Run the blender until all the paper is chopped and the mixture looks uniform.
4. Place a small, framed window screen over a bowl or sink.
5. Pour the pulp mixture through the screen. The pulp should feel like very wet clay.
6. Put the pulp in a bowl and add enough flour to make a sticky clay-like material. (If you prepare this a day or two ahead, make sure to cover the bowl with plastic. Do not prepare it too far ahead because it may mold.)
7. Have everyone put on plastic gloves and smocks.
8. Take handfuls of the pulp mixture and press it into the molded chicken wire form on the outside and in the interior of the cup. Make sure to check that the entire form is covered and no wire is visible.
9. Form the plate by pressing pulp onto the plastic-covered plate. You may choose to have a rough or smooth edge. Create a flange or lip to make the edge thicker.
10. The final pieces should have a thickness of at least one-half inch, as there will be shrinkage with drying.



11. Try to save some of the pulp mixture by covering it and placing it in a refrigerator.
12. Put the complete Communion set pieces in an open warm area to dry. Leaving the papier-mâché plate and the china or glass plate together will help prevent warping.
13. Some of the armature may become exposed during the drying process. It is possible to add more pulp mixture to a dry piece as long as you press it in firmly and you can tell that the old and new have contacted well.
14. After the pieces are completely dry, cover them with matte finish Mod Podge.

For All Ages

Helping Hands

Prepare

Note: Recruit a quilter to work with this project. Each week, the children will make squares. The quilter will assemble the quilt top at the end of the unit.

Wash, dry, and press fabrics in two contrasting colors. For each child, cut a six-inch square of paper-backed fusible web and three six-inch squares of fabric. Two of the squares should be the same color and the third square should be a contrasting color.

Read the instructions for the fusible web. Then for each child's set of squares, iron the square of fusible web, leaving the paper backing in place, on the wrong side of a single contrasting square. (This step may be done by older children with adult supervision if you choose.)

With the Children

Say: When God told the people to build the Tabernacle, they all worked together. That happens in our church, too, and when many people work together, wonderful things can happen. We are going to make an altar cloth to remind us of all the helping hands in our church.

Help the children follow these instructions:

1. Give each child a set of three squares of fabric. Have them trace one hand in the middle of the paper side of the fusible web.
2. Have the children carefully cut out the hand.
3. Peel the paper backing from the hand shape and fuse the hand shape to the right side of one of the contrasting fabric squares. Set the block aside.
4. Peel the remaining paper backing from the square from which the hand has been cut. Carefully place it on the remaining square, right side up. Be sure that the edges match all the way around. Then fuse the squares together.
5. Each child has now made two blocks. Have each one sign his or her blocks with a permanent pen or marker.

Supplies

fabric in two
contrasting colors
paper-backed fusible
web
sharp scissors
iron
self-healing cutting
mat
rotary cutter
permanent-ink pen
or marker
sewing machine
thread
additional fabric for
sashing for setting
squares
backing fabric
batting
binding

Talk Tip

Can you name something at our church that took the work of many hands to accomplish?



STEPS FOR THE QUILTER

1. Zig-zag around each hand shape to secure it in place on its block.
2. Assemble the quilt top as desired.
3. Layer, baste, and quilt as desired.
4. Bind.

For All Ages

Worship Banners

Prepare

Recruit the person who works with the paraments used in your worship services to help. Ask that person to suggest symbols for the banners and to have drawings or other samples of these suggestions to show the children.

Decide whether you will make banners with markers, painted banners, or fabric banners and how many banners you will make. Purchase the Pellon® you will need for the banners, and cut it to the size you will need.

Note: Pellon® comes in varying degrees of stiffness. It is available in black or white. The edges of the Pellon® do not need to be finished and will not fray.

With the Children

Ask your visitor to talk to the children about symbols and banners.

Help the children develop a sketch of the banner they will create. As they decide what symbols to use, talk with them about what each of the symbols represents.

BANNERS WITH MARKERS

Let the children use fabric pencils to transfer the sketch of the symbols or other designs they have chosen to a piece of Pellon®. Then have them use fine-point permanent markers to complete the symbol on the Pellon®.

PAINTED BANNERS

Let the children use fabric pencils to transfer the sketch of the symbols or other designs they have chosen to a piece of Pellon®. Then have them paint the symbol on the Pellon®.

FABRIC OR FELT BANNERS

Let the children cut symbols and/or letters they will need to create their design on the banner from the Pellon®. Then have them decorate the designs with markers or paints. They can use a glue gun to attach the pieces of the design to fabric or felt.

Supplies

drawing paper
pencils
Pellon® (available at fabric stores)

WITH MARKERS

pencils for marking fabric, such as Quilting Clean Erase™ (available at fabric stores)
fine-point permanent markers

PAINTED

pencils for marking fabric, such as Quilting Clean Erase™ (available at fabric stores)
brushes
paint
smocks

FABRIC OR FELT

scissors
markers or paint and brushes
glue guns
felt or other fabric



For Younger Children

Bulletins for Worship

Prepare

Check with your pastor and worship committee about the children providing bulletin covers for the worship service one Sunday. Agree on the number of bulletins that will be needed.

Make a master copy with these words: "I also want them to build a special place where I can live among my people." (Exodus 25:8, CEV)
Be sure to provide space for the children to draw.

Use the master to photocopy several bulletin covers for each child.

With the Children

Show the children sample bulletins from the church's worship service. Tell the children that the bulletin lets people know what is going to happen in worship, when it is going to happen, and who the worship leaders will be.

Explain that the children will create bulletin covers that will be used for the worship service on the date the worship planners have chosen. Show them the master cover and read the Bible verse aloud.

Say: Use markers to draw a picture of our special place for worship in our church—the sanctuary. You can draw pictures for several different bulletins if you wish.

Note: If you have a small congregation, the children may be able to create enough bulletin covers to use their original art. If you have a larger congregation, the children's art can be photocopied on additional bulletin covers to make enough bulletins for the entire congregation.

For Older Children

Weaving

Prepare

Decide if each child will make a loom like the ones children in Africa make or if you will make a classroom loom ahead of time.

Option: If you prefer to purchase looms, they are available online at these sites:

- www.harrisville.com/html/laploom.html
- www.enasco.com/artsandcrafts/ProductDetail.do?sku=9724593

With the Children

Say: The people built the Tabernacle using the resources and skills they had.

Resources

sample bulletins

Supplies

bulletin paper (check with the church office for size, weight, and color)
markers
a photocopier to make copies of the master the children will draw on

Resources

Bible

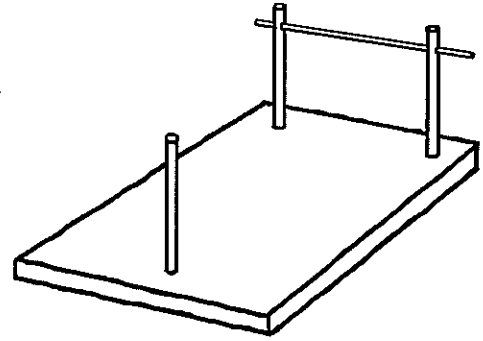
Supplies

½-inch plywood
saw
pencil
ruler
drill with ¼-inch and ⅜-inch bits
¼-inch dowels, cut into 6-inch lengths
⅜-inch metal rod, 12 inches long
heavy scissors or tin snips
electrical tape
mercerized cotton thread in a variety of colors
tongue depressors
scissors



Read Exodus 35:23-26.

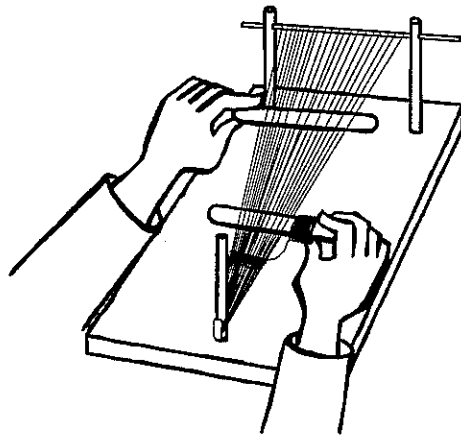
Tell the children that today they will do some simple weaving. The cloth they produce may be used in the sanctuary, perhaps as bookmarks for the Bibles, stoles for the clergy, or on the chancel furniture.



Art: Paige Easter

TO MAKE A LOOM

1. Cut plywood into a 12-by-15-inch piece.
2. Make a pencil mark two inches in from each side of the corners on one of the 12-inch ends of the plywood piece. The two marks will be eight inches apart.
3. Draw a line between the two marks. Then mark the middle of the line.
4. Measure 12 inches from the mark at the middle of the line to the other end of the plywood piece. Make another mark on this line, 1 inch in from the edge.
5. Drill $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch holes at the first two marks and at the mark at the other end of the plywood.
6. Drill through one end of two dowels with a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch bit.
7. Put the dowels, with the holes at the top, into the two holes that are 8 inches apart in the plywood base.
8. Put a 12-inch-long metal rod through the holes in the two dowels. Wrap tape around the ends of the metal rod to secure it in place.
9. Put a third dowel in the hole that is 12 inches away at the other end of the plywood piece.



Art: Paige Easter

TO WEAVE

1. Wrap thread around the front dowel. Take each end over the metal rod between the two dowels at the other end of the loom and then back around the front dowel until there are 15 to 20 threads laid out at even distances from one another from the front dowel to the metal rod at the back of the loom. The threads form a warp.
2. Use a tongue depressor as a shuttle to hold the cross thread, called the weft.
3. With a second tongue depressor, separate the odd warp threads from the even warp threads (the odd threads will go over the tongue depressor, the even threads will go under it). The opening that is created, called the shed, provides a space for the shuttle to pass with the weft thread.
4. Guide the weft thread through the shed.

5. Pack the weft thread into the warp near the single dowel with your fingers or with a comb.
6. Separate the opposite set of threads in the warp (even from odd) to create a second opening to make a new passage for a new weft thread. Then pass a new weft thread through the opening.
7. Pack the weft thread tightly in place next to the first thread.
8. Continue weaving by repeating steps 3–7 until the warp is filled and the cloth is completed.

For Older Children

Worship Center Cloths

Prepare

Recruit the person who works with the paraments used in worship to help. Ask that person to suggest symbols for the worship cloths and provide drawings or other samples of these suggestions to show the children.

Perhaps you will want to plan a date when the cloths can be used in the sanctuary. At other times the cloths can be used as part of the children's worship center in the station or in the Gathering Time area.

Option: Make templates of the symbols using card stock, or provide plastic template sheets, available at quilting stores.

Wash and dry large pieces of fabric in liturgical colors (purple or blue, white, green, red, gold) before use.

Test bleach pens on small pieces of fabric (some fabrics will not bleach out).

With the Children

Say: The people who made the Tabernacle wanted it to be beautiful and meaningful. We feel the same way about our sanctuary. Today we are going to create cloths that will be used on the Communion table in our sanctuary. At other times we can use the cloths in our children's worship center.

Talk about appropriate symbols for the cloths. Have the children make some sketches with pencils on drawing paper.

Use fabric marking pencils to transfer their sketches to the fabric. Or if you have provided templates, let the children trace around the templates.

Place the pieces of fabric on top of a piece of cardboard.

Have everyone put on rubber gloves and paint shirts. Then show the children how to trace the pencil line with bleach pens. Be prepared to use many of the bleach pens.

Let the fabric dry; then press the cloths.

Supplies

large pieces of cloth—
cotton, polyester
blends, or canvas—
in liturgical colors
pictures or drawings
of liturgical symbols
Clorox® Bleach Pen®
Gel
drawing paper
pencils
pencils for marking
fabric, such as
Quilting Clean
Erase™ (available
at fabric stores)
cardboard
rubber gloves
paint shirts
ironing board
iron
optional: card stock
or plastic template
sheets



Resources

Bible

Supplies

gifts for the sanctuary that the children have created

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Gather the children around the gifts they have created for the church.

Say: When the Tabernacle was built, the people were living in the wilderness. Do you wonder where they got the materials to build the Tabernacle?

Read Exodus 35:21-24.

Say: The people were generous with their gifts. Listen to this: *(Read Exodus 36:2-7).*

Say: God's people continue to be generous. Our church was built using the gifts that people gave. And now we have special gifts for our church.

Look at and talk about the items the children have created.

Close With Prayer: God, we give these gifts to you for use in our worship center and in our sanctuary. May they help each person in worship feel your love. Bless the children who created these gifts. Amen.

