

BUILDING THE TABERNACLE

BIBLE VERSE

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
Psalm 122:1

BIBLE STORY REFERENCE

Exodus 25-40,
focusing on Exodus 25:1-9;
36:1-2; 40:34

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

MAIN IDEA

The Hebrew people gave generously of their possessions, skills, and time to build the Tabernacle, a sacred place to worship God. Today, we can use our possessions, skills, and time for the church, the special place where we worship God.

OBJECTIVES

Children will have opportunities to

- * learn about the Tabernacle, a large moveable tent built as a special place to worship God;
- * experience the sanctuary of their church as a special place to worship God;

- * discover that there are many different kinds of church buildings today;
- * use their time and skills to serve God through the church.

FOR ALL YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Photocopy these sections for all your leaders:

- * Main Idea; Objectives (page 3)
- * Bible Story; Bible Background (pages 4-5)
- * Check Your Facts (pages 5-6)
- * About the Children; Shepherd Tips (page 6)
- * Mission Project (page 7)

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 25:1-9; 36:1-2; 40:34

After the Hebrew people left Egypt, they became nomads, living in the wilderness. During the day the Lord went ahead of the people in a thick cloud, and during the night the Lord went ahead of them in a flaming fire (Exodus 13:21). Eventually, God told Moses that the people were to build a sanctuary so God could live among them.

The plans for this sanctuary, called the Tabernacle, were very detailed. The outer court was to be 150 feet by 75 feet and separated from the people by walls of linen curtains. An altar was to stand in the front half of the courtyard. The Tabernacle itself would stand in the back half of the courtyard. It would be divided into two rooms: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The ark of the covenant was to stand in the Holy of Holies.

Only the finest materials were to be used in the construction of the Tabernacle. These were gladly given to Moses by the people (Exodus 25:1-9).

God chose Bezalel and Oholiab to make the Tabernacle and its furnishings, and God gave them the necessary skills and wisdom for this task. In addition, they were filled with the Spirit of God (Exodus 36:1-2).

The Tabernacle was designed so that it could be disassembled and moved with the people in their wanderings.

When the Tabernacle was completed, it was covered by a thick cloud and filled with the glory of the Lord (Exodus 40:34).

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The Hebrew people had a long tradition of sacred places. After the flood, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to God (Genesis 8:20). After Abram left Haran, he built altars at Shechem, Bethel, and Hebron (Genesis 12:6-8 and 13:18).

The earliest sanctuary, however, was the Tabernacle. It was set up on New Year's Day of the second year after the Exodus (Exodus 40:17), nine months after the people arrived at Mt. Sinai. The Tabernacle symbolized the presence of God with the people of God, as well as the covenant between God and the people that was made at Sinai. The Tabernacle stood in the middle of the camp.

Over a quarter of the Book of Exodus deals with the Tabernacle (chapters 25-31; the parallel account, chapters 35-39; and the account of the assembly of the Tabernacle in chapter 40). Instructions for the Tabernacle are outlined in minute detail: the construction, furnishings, parts and equipment, and details regarding the priesthood.



The material and labor for the Tabernacle were freely and joyfully given by the Hebrew people.

The Tabernacle was designed to be disassembled and to move with the people, although this surely was a labor-intensive task.

After the people were settled in Canaan, Solomon built the Temple. The floor plan and furnishings of the Temple were copied from the Tabernacle. This was also true when the Temple was rebuilt under the leadership of Ezra and Zerubbabel, and when a new Temple was begun in 19 B.C. by Herod the Great.

CHECK YOUR FACTS

- The Tabernacle was the first sanctuary of the Hebrew people.
- Detailed instructions for the design, furnishing, and building of the Tabernacle are given in Exodus 25–40.
- God told Moses to take an offering for all that was needed to build the Tabernacle. The people gladly gave more than everything that was needed.
- Oholiab and Bezalel directed the building of the Tabernacle. They were filled with God's Spirit, and God gave them the wisdom necessary for their work.
- The Tabernacle sat in the middle of the camp. The people were arranged by tribes around the Tabernacle.
- A large outer enclosure, made of linen curtains, separated the Tabernacle from the people.
- The altar of burnt offering and a laver (a basin for ritual washing) were located in the outer courtyard of the Tabernacle.
- The Tabernacle itself was divided into two rooms: an outer room and an inner room.
- The altar of incense, a golden candlestick, and a table of showbread were in the outer room of the Tabernacle. This room was 30 feet by 15 feet and was called the Holy Place. Only the priests could enter this room.
- The inner room of the Tabernacle was called the Holy of Holies. It was 15 feet square. The ark of the covenant, containing the tablets that Moses received on Mt. Sinai, was in this room. No one else but the high priest could enter this room, once a year.
- On top of the ark of the covenant was the mercy-seat, known as the throne of God.
- Moses anointed the Tabernacle and everything in it, so that it was holy.



- ❑ Moses consecrated Aaron and his sons to serve as priests in the Tabernacle.
- ❑ After the Tabernacle was dedicated, the Holy of Holies was filled with the glory of God (Exodus 40:34).

ABOUT THE CHILDREN

Children have an innate sense of wonder and awe. Spend some time thinking about how this has been nurtured in the children in your church. Have they been encouraged to thank God for the beauty and miracles of life around them? What kind of experiences have they had with worship and in the sanctuary of their church?

Plan ways to build on the children's prior experiences as they learn that the Tabernacle was a special place for the Hebrews to worship God, just as the sanctuary of their church is a special place to worship God. Give children opportunities to contribute to the worship life of the church.

Worship in the Tabernacle included the sacrifice of animals. If children raise questions about this practice, be ready to tell them that people offered grain or sacrificed animals as a way of giving thanks to God and receiving God's forgiveness. The gifts that were given to God represented the very best a person had.

SHEPHERD TIPS

- * Pray each week for the children under your care.
- * Model the behavior you want from the children.
- * Assist the station leader as needed.
- * Make sure the children use tools and equipment in a safe manner.
- * Talk to the church school superintendent or coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about the children in your care.

Greet the Children

Help with nametags.

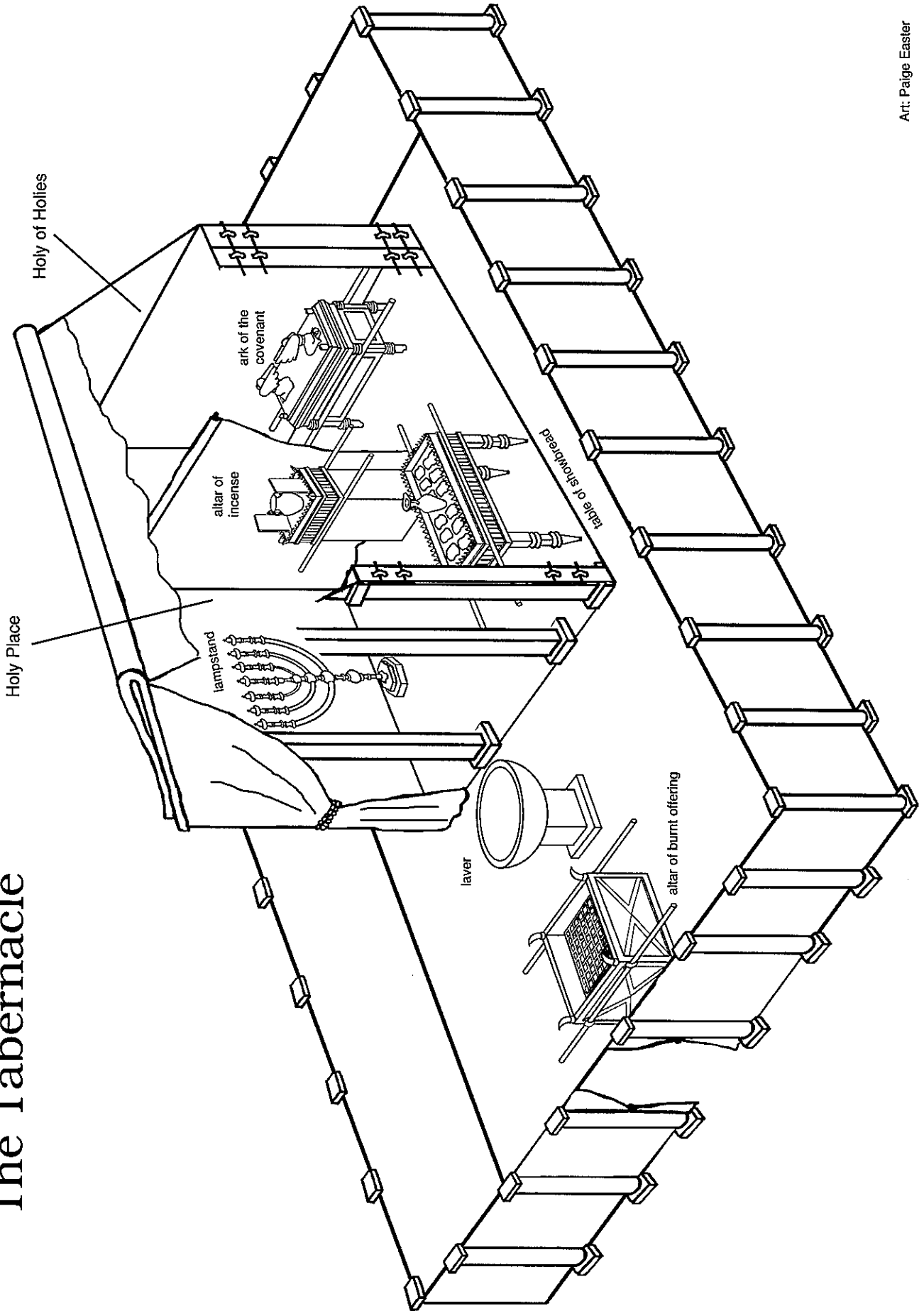
Thank the children for remembering to bring their offerings. Have the children place their offerings in the offering basket.

Take attendance. Note any children who are absent. Make plans to send absent children a note or card. Record names, addresses, and phone numbers of any children who are attending for the first time, and plan to call them or to send a welcoming card.

Read the **Talk Tips** in each of the station plans and support the station leader in helping the children explore the ideas of the unit.



The Tabernacle



14 STATIONS AT A GLANCE

Station Focus: The Hebrew people gave generously of their possessions, skills, and time to build the Tabernacle, a sacred place to worship God. Today, we can use our possessions, skills, and time for the church, the special place where we worship God.

	Objectives	Activities	Resources
ART	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through art experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences visual • personal logical</p>	<p>Papier-Mâché Communion Set Helping Hands Worship Banners Bulletins for Worship Weaving Worship Center Cloths</p>	<p>Bible picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor sample church bulletins</p>
COMPUTER	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through computer experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences logical • independent visual • verbal</p>	<p>Our Place of Worship Virtual Tour Tabernacle Presentation Word Search iLumina Museum Pictures</p>	<p>Bibles Powerpoint or other presentation software word processing software <i>Word Search Studio: Bible Edition</i> CD-ROM <i>iLumina Gold</i> CD-ROM</p>
COOKING	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through experiences with food.</p> <p>Learning Preferences logical • social • verbal physical</p>	<p>Mission Project: Bread for the Tabernacle Manna Quail #1 Quail #2 Quail #3 Mission Project: Cookies</p>	<p>Bible picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor optional: <i>Food at the Time of the Bible</i> by Miriam Feinberg Vamosh</p>
GAMES	<p>Station Objective Children will play a series of learning games.</p> <p>Learning Preferences physical • visual social • verbal • logical</p>	<p>Touch and See the Sanctuary Sanctuary Tour Sanctuary Concentration Build a Verse Tabernacle/Sanctuary So Many Sanctuaries</p>	<p>Bibles picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor</p>
MUSIC	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through musical experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences musical • physical social • logical</p>	<p>Goin' to the House of the Lord Givin' It All A Sanctuary There Is a Place We Are the Church It Takes All Kinds of Us</p>	<p>Building the Tabernacle CD Building the Tabernacle lyric transparencies Building the Tabernacle sheet music picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor optional: hymnal</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through science experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preferences logical • physical verbal • visual • social</p>	<p>Building Our Church Build a Model of the Tabernacle Venn Diagram Create a Church Church Puzzles Cathedral What Is a Cubit? Making Incense</p>	<p>Bibles picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor blueprints of your church Tabernacle model (paper or plastic) <i>Cathedral</i> by David Macaulay concordances incense-making kit optional: <i>Building the Book Cathedral</i> by David Macaulay</p>
STORY	<p>Station Objective Children will retell the Bible story.</p> <p>Learning Preferences verbal • visual • social</p>	<p>Building a House for God Churches I Was Glad Sacred Places Tabernacle Research</p>	<p>Bibles picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>Churches</i> by Judith Dupré <i>Sacred Places</i> by Philemon Sturges optional: <i>International Children's Bible Field Guide</i> by Lawrence Richards</p>
VIDEO	<p>Station Objective Children will hear and see the Bible story.</p> <p>Learning Preferences visual • verbal • social independent</p>	<p>Make Your Own Video Lilies of the Field (for younger children) Lilies of the Field (for older children) The Tabernacle Cathedral #1 Cathedral #2 Select Your Own Video</p>	<p>Bibles (including at least one CEV) picture or poster of the Tabernacle <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor <i>Lilies of the Field</i> DVD <i>The Tabernacle</i> DVD <i>Cathedral</i> VHS DVD or VHS of your choice</p>

Plan-Ahead Supplies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> blender <input type="checkbox"/> colored construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> chicken wire <input type="checkbox"/> leather work gloves <input type="checkbox"/> heavy scissors <input type="checkbox"/> china or glass plate <input type="checkbox"/> cup <input type="checkbox"/> plastic drop cloth <input type="checkbox"/> large bowls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> small, framed window screen <input type="checkbox"/> plastic wrap <input type="checkbox"/> plastic gloves <input type="checkbox"/> smocks <input type="checkbox"/> matte finish Mod Podge <input type="checkbox"/> fabric in 2 contrasting colors <input type="checkbox"/> paper-backed fusible web <input type="checkbox"/> clothes iron <input type="checkbox"/> self-healing cutting mat <input type="checkbox"/> rotary cutter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sewing machine <input type="checkbox"/> fabric for sashing <input type="checkbox"/> backing fabric <input type="checkbox"/> batting <input type="checkbox"/> binding <input type="checkbox"/> drawing paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Pellon® <input type="checkbox"/> fabric-marking pencils <input type="checkbox"/> fine-point permanent markers <input type="checkbox"/> paint and brushes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> glue guns <input type="checkbox"/> felt or fabric banner <input type="checkbox"/> bulletin paper <input type="checkbox"/> ½" plywood <input type="checkbox"/> saw <input type="checkbox"/> ruler <input type="checkbox"/> drill with ¼" and ⅝" bits <input type="checkbox"/> ¼" dowels, 6" long <input type="checkbox"/> ⅝" metal rod, 12" long <input type="checkbox"/> electrical tape <input type="checkbox"/> mercerized cotton thread in various colors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tongue depressors <input type="checkbox"/> large pieces of cloth in liturgical colors <input type="checkbox"/> pictures or drawings of liturgical symbols <input type="checkbox"/> Clorox® Bleach Pen® <input type="checkbox"/> cardboard <input type="checkbox"/> ironing board <input type="checkbox"/> optional: glitter, dried flowers or leaves <input type="checkbox"/> optional: card stock or plastic template sheets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> computer with Internet access <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> digital cameras <input type="checkbox"/> color printer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> measuring tape or yardstick <input type="checkbox"/> optional: Zip Disk, SmartDisk, or CDR <input type="checkbox"/> optional: digital camcorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> optional: building supplies and place cards 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> recipe ingredients (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> measuring cups and spoons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mixing bowl <input type="checkbox"/> mixing spoon <input type="checkbox"/> pastry cloth or board <input type="checkbox"/> tea towels <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pin <input type="checkbox"/> electric griddle or skillet with cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pancake turner <input type="checkbox"/> butter knife <input type="checkbox"/> butter, honey, or jelly <input type="checkbox"/> pastry brush <input type="checkbox"/> iron or other kind of heavy skillet <input type="checkbox"/> stove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> lunch-size paper bags <input type="checkbox"/> tongs or fork <input type="checkbox"/> platter <input type="checkbox"/> broiler pan <input type="checkbox"/> oven <input type="checkbox"/> baster <input type="checkbox"/> hot pads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> electric mixer <input type="checkbox"/> cookie sheets <input type="checkbox"/> cooling rack <input type="checkbox"/> small bags <input type="checkbox"/> small bottles of water <input type="checkbox"/> small plates <input type="checkbox"/> napkins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> drawing paper <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils <input type="checkbox"/> photos of places and objects in the sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> card stock <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> laminating machine or clear contact paper <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> optional: video camera and viewing equipment <input type="checkbox"/> optional: scissors and basket 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> overhead projector <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> building tools and materials <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> cardboard paper towel tubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> roll of ribbed shelf liner <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> ribbon in various colors <input type="checkbox"/> colored rubber bands <input type="checkbox"/> unsharpened pencils <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint or markerboard <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> paper 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> tables <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint or markerboard <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> building blocks <input type="checkbox"/> LEGO® blocks <input type="checkbox"/> blank puzzle kits <input type="checkbox"/> digital camera <input type="checkbox"/> photo printer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> clothes iron <input type="checkbox"/> various building tools <input type="checkbox"/> mortar, bricks, and plumb line <input type="checkbox"/> yardsticks or retractable measures <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> incense and burner <input type="checkbox"/> matches 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> Bible-times costumes <input type="checkbox"/> tent <input type="checkbox"/> drawing paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils <input type="checkbox"/> mural paper <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> tempera or poster paint <input type="checkbox"/> brushes <input type="checkbox"/> water <input type="checkbox"/> paint shirts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 18"x24" posterboard sheets <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper in various colors <input type="checkbox"/> rulers <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> cellophane tape 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> VCR and/or DVD player <input type="checkbox"/> poster-mounting supplies <input type="checkbox"/> large piece of fabric or small tent <input type="checkbox"/> video camera <input type="checkbox"/> tripod <input type="checkbox"/> video tape <input type="checkbox"/> paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> map of France <input type="checkbox"/> push pins 			



These resources
may be ordered through
Cokesbury (1-800-672-1789)
and other Christian
bookstores or online through
www.cokesbury.com
(unless noted otherwise).

Art Station

- 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. \$16.99.
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Computer Station

- 513909 **SFW Crosswords and Word Search** CD-ROMs (set contains **Word Search Studio: Bible Edition**). \$28.00.
- 9780842383141 **iLumina Gold** CD-ROM. \$89.99.

Creative Cookery Station

- 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. \$16.99.
- 9780687340347 **Food at the Time of the Bible** by Miriam Feinberg Vamosh. \$18.00.
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Game Station

- 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. \$16.99.
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Music Movement Station

- 9780687039234 **Building the Tabernacle CD** (one copy provided with the unit; additional copies, \$9.95).

- Building the Tabernacle sheet music** (two copies of each song provided with unit).
- Building the Tabernacle lyric transparencies** (one copy of each song provided with unit).
- 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. \$16.99.
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Science Station

- 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. \$16.99.
- 9781596360280 **Tabernacle Paper Model**. \$16.99.
- Godly Play Tabernacle Model**. \$149.00 (available at www.godlyplay.com/zcom.asp?pg=products&specific=jnoornf4).
- 9780395316689 **Cathedral** by David Macaulay. \$9.95.
- 9780395921470 **Building the Book Cathedral** by David Macaulay. \$29.95. (optional)
- Incense-Making Kit**. \$29.95 (available at www.mountainroseherbs.com/candle/accessories.php).
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Storytelling Station

- 9780060194383 **Churches** by Judith Dupré. \$40.00.
- Sacred Places** by Philemon Sturges (available from public or church libraries).
- 9781400308101 **International Children's Bible Field Guide** by Lawrence Richards. \$12.99. (optional)
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Video Station

- 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. \$16.99.
- Lilies of the Field** DVD (available from public libraries and video rental stores).
- 9781563647918 **The Tabernacle** DVD. \$19.99.
- 0780611349 **Cathedral** video. PBS. \$19.98. (available at video rental stores and public libraries and online at <https://commerce.cathedral.org/exec/ms/product-detail?SKU=MS-680005>).
- 9780687026548 **What's What in the Bible** by Derek Williams. \$11.00. (optional)

Resources are constantly changing and going out of print. Websites are also constantly changing. Although all websites were checked at the time this unit was developed, we recommend that you double-check each site to verify that it is still live and that it is still appropriate for children before using it in an activity.

Go to www.powerxpress.com for any updated information and alternate activities.

Notes

