

VIDEO STATION

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.

SCRIPTURES

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

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will have opportunities to

- * learn about the Tabernacle, a large moveable tent built as a special place to worship God;
- * discover that there are many different kinds of church buildings today.

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.

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.

Important Note

Always preview any video you will use with the children. Make sure it is age appropriate and that the theology is consistent with the theology of your church. You will need a public performance license to show copyrighted movies.

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

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

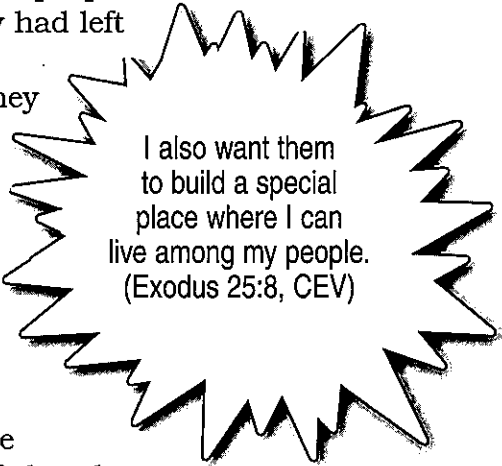
- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Teach the children how to use safely any equipment they may handle.
- Be sure all equipment is working safely and any exposed cords are placed where children will not trip over them.
- Create a safe environment in which children feel able to share or not share during discussions.

Resources

The Children's Bible in 365 Stories by Mary Batchelor

BIBLE STORY (5–10 minutes)

Ask: Have you ever been on vacation on a Sunday and been unable to go to church for worship? God's people had a similar experience. They had left Egypt and were on their way back to the Promised Land. They were in the desert, and there was no place for them to go to worship God. Here is what they did.



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

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

Say: Today we are going to see some examples of the many kinds of church buildings people have built.

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.

Note

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

For All Ages

Make Your Own Video

Prepare

The direction of this activity will depend on your church. If your church is relatively new or has a recent addition, arrange for the children to interview people who were involved with the building project. If your church is older, contact such people as the church historian, people who are responsible for the maintenance of the building, or people who prepare Communion and ask if your group may interview them.

Prepare the equipment that will allow the children to videotape their interviews with their guests.

With the Children

Say: When the Israelites built the Tabernacle, everyone was involved!

Read Exodus 35:20–36:7 (CEV).

Say: People gave gifts to be used in making the Tabernacle, and they worked on making the Tabernacle beautiful.

The same thing happened when our church was built. People gave money and time to the project. Today we are going to interview some of the people involved in this work.

Tell the children who will be coming to be interviewed. Work with the children to develop questions appropriate for your guests.

Let each child who wishes have a chance to both interview and videotape.

Watch the video when the interviews are finished.

For Younger Children

Lilies of the Field

Prepare

This movie, which was made in 1963, is black and white and unrated. It is considered a family film and is appropriate for children. The suggested clip is approximately 30 minutes long.

In the movie, five impoverished nuns live in the Arizona desert. They have been praying for someone to build a chapel for them. Homer Smith stops to ask them for water for his car and ends up repairing their leaking roof and then building the chapel.

Cue the DVD to Chapter 9, "Introducing a Miracle," at about 48:07.

Resources

Bible (CEV)

Supplies

video camera
tripod
videotape
TV
video player

Talk Tip

What did you learn about our church today?

Resources

Lilies of the Field
DVD

Supplies

TV
DVD player



With the Children

Introduce the movie by giving a summary of what the movie is about.

Say: As you watch the movie, look for things that people gave or did to help build the chapel.

Watch the movie until just before the end of chapter 13, at 1:18:50. An elderly couple brings a chandelier, and after Homer talks to them, he tells Mr. Ashton, "Everybody wants to give." Stop the movie here.

Ask the children to list the gifts the people brought.

Ask: The people had all those things all along. Why did they suddenly decide to give them to the building of the chapel? Why did Homer refuse help at first? What happened to the work when he quit?

Can you think of times when a project has gone better with lots of people helping?

For Older Children

Lilies of the Field

Prepare

This movie, which was made in 1963, is black and white and unrated. It is considered a family film and is appropriate for children. The suggested clip is approximately 30 minutes long.

In the movie, five impoverished nuns live in the Arizona desert. They have been praying for someone to build a chapel for them. Homer Smith stops to ask them for water for his car and ends up repairing their leaky roof and then building the chapel.

Cue the DVD to Chapter 9, "Introducing a Miracle," at about 48:07.

With the Children

Introduce the movie by giving a summary of what the movie is about.

Ask the children to open their Bibles to Matthew 6:28-30 and follow along as you read.

Say: The title of the movie we are going to watch today came from this passage in the Bible. The movie is called *Lilies of the Field*. As you watch the movie, decide if you think the title is a good one. Also, as you watch the movie, look for the gifts the people give to help build the chapel.

Watch the movie until just before the end of chapter 13, at 1:18:50. An elderly couple brings a chandelier, and after Homer talks to them, he tells Mr. Ashton, "Everybody wants to give." Stop the movie here.

Ask the children to list the gifts the people brought.

Resources

Bibles
Lilies of the Field
DVD

Supplies

TV
DVD player

Talk Tip

The nuns considered Homer an answer to prayer. Talk about times when you may have unintentionally been an answer to someone's prayer.

Ask: The people had all those things all along. Why did they suddenly decide to give them to the building of the chapel? Why did Homer refuse help at first? What happened to the work when he quit?

Can you think of times when a project has gone better with lots of people helping?

Is *Lilies of the Field* a good title for the movie? Why or why not?

For Older Children

The Tabernacle

Prepare

This video is intended for adult viewing and may seem slow for children since it includes the reading of the instructions for building the parts of the Tabernacle and the reading of the Ten Commandments. However, older children can learn a great deal by viewing the clip, which is 17 minutes long. As they watch, the children will be able to walk through a computer-generated model of the Tabernacle.

From the main menu of the DVD, click on "Chapter Selections." Then choose "East Gate." The video will begin at 6:46. You will show two chapters, ending at 23:50.

With the Children

Say: No one now living has ever seen the Tabernacle. However, it is described in such detail in the Bible that it is easy to imagine what it might have looked like. The movie we are going to see gives us a guided tour of the Tabernacle. As you watch, remember what you have learned about the building of the Tabernacle.

Divide the children into five groups. Assign each group one of these questions. Answers are given here to help you, but be ready to listen to other answers the children may also hear in the video tour.

1. You will see two curtains. What was their purpose? (*to separate the dwelling of God from the rest of the camp and to separate the Holy Place from the courtyard*)
2. What two things were found in the courtyard? What were they used for? (*The altar was for sacrifices, offerings to God. The laver was for the priests to clean themselves before entering the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.*)
3. What three things were found in the Holy Place, the first room of the Tabernacle? (*a lampstand, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense*)
4. Why was the Holy of Holies important? Who could enter the Holy of Holies, and what was found there? (*It was the dwelling place of God. Only the High Priest could enter once a year. The ark of the covenant was there.*)

Resources
The Tabernacle DVD

Supplies
TV
DVD player
paper
pencils

Talk Tip

Sacrifice was a part of worship in ancient times. It is no longer part of Jewish worship. In Christian worship, Holy Communion reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus. Read Hebrews 9:24-28 together. Note that Romans 12:1 says that as Christians we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God.

5. What three things were in the ark of the covenant? (*a golden pot filled with one day's portion of manna, Aaron's rod that had budded and borne almonds, and the two stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were engraved*)

After the video, discuss the answers to each group's question.

Ask: Did the Tabernacle look the way you thought it would? If not, what was different from the way you had imagined it?

Say: Name one thing you saw in the video that reminded you of something in our sanctuary.

Name one thing you saw in the video that you do not think you would ever see in our church.

For Older Children

Cathedral #1

Prepare

This video alternates between animated and non-animated segments. Cue the video by setting the counter at 0:00:00 when the animation begins. Then practice moving from one animated segment to the next as quickly as possible. The clips you will watch are approximately 28 minutes long. The animated segments are located at these counter settings:

- 0:00:00–0:1:55
- 0:7:32–0:15:33
- 0:21:42–0:28:01
- 0:32:42–0:38:52
- 0:44:04–49:56

The video deals with the building of a cathedral, a Catholic church. Recruit someone with a Catholic background who can answer questions about that tradition.

With the Children

Say: During the Middle Ages, magnificent churches called cathedrals were built throughout Europe. Cathedrals were bishops' churches. We are going to see a video about the building of a cathedral called Notre Dame de Beaulieu (Our Lady of Beaulieu) in France. This is a fictional church, but the story of its construction is representative of the building of cathedrals.

As we watch, jot down any words or phrases you do not understand. Look for how building the cathedral is similar to the building of the Tabernacle and how it is different from the building of the Tabernacle.

After viewing, clarify the meaning of words or phrases the children did not understand. Compare the building of the Tabernacle to the building of the cathedral.

Resources

Cathedral VHS

Supplies

TV
VCR
paper
pencils

Note

Counters vary. Be sure to preview the video and practice moving from segment to segment.

Talk Tip

What problems did the builders of the cathedral face?

For Older Children

Cathedral #2

Prepare

This video alternates between animated and non-animated segments. Set the counter at 0:00:00 when the animation begins. Then fast forward to 0:01:56, where the first non-animated segment begins. Practice moving from one non-animated segment to the next as quickly as possible. The clips you will watch are approximately 26 minutes long. The non-animated segments are located at these counter settings:

- 0:01:56–0:07:31
- 0:15:34–0:21:41
- 0:28:02–0:32:41
- 0:38:57–0:44:03
- 0:49:57–0:54:45 (the end of the video)

The video deals with the building of a Gothic Catholic cathedral in France in the Middle Ages. Recruit someone with a Catholic background who can answer questions about that tradition.

With the Children

Say: During the Middle Ages, magnificent churches called cathedrals were built throughout Europe. Cathedrals were bishops' churches. This movie is about cathedrals in France. Jot down the names of the towns that are mentioned. We will locate them on the map later. Also jot down any words or phrases you do not understand, and listen for information about the building of the cathedrals.

After viewing the video, locate the cathedral towns on the map of France. Clarify the meaning of words or phrases the children did not understand.

Ask: What technical problems did the builders of cathedrals face? How did they solve those problems?

For All Ages

Select Your Own Video

Many appropriate movies are available through judicatory libraries or local Christian resource centers and stores. Your pastor or Christian education coordinator can tell you how to contact them. Movies may also be found through public libraries or video rental stores. You may find a video of the building of a church in your area.

Be sure the movie relates to the building of the Tabernacle and is appropriate for the age level viewing it.

Preview the movie. Then, prepare at least three questions based on the movie that will help children recognize the significance of the theme of the unit.

Resources

Cathedral VHS

Supplies

TV
VCR
map of France
push pins
paper
pencils

Note

Counters vary. Be sure to preview the video and practice moving from segment to segment.

Talk Tip

Builders of the Tabernacle were not faced with raising arches and roofs. What problems do you think they had in building the Tabernacle? in moving it from place to place?

Resources

DVD or VHS of your choice

Supplies

TV
VCR or DVD player



CLOSING (5 minutes)

Ask: In the video we watched today, did anything surprise you about building a church? If you were going to help build a church, on what part of the building would you like to work?

Say: In our Bible story, people brought gifts to be used in making the Tabernacle. In the video we saw, people used their skills to build churches. Not all of us will help build a church, but we can all give our gifts and skills to the church. One way to do that is to pray for our church.

Pray a circle prayer, giving each child an opportunity to pray a sentence prayer for the church.