

Lesson 4: The Pattern for the Tabernacle – God’s Sanctuary

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 25-31 and see that God wanted the Israelites to build a “tent” or tabernacle as a place for the Lord.
- 2) See that God was very specific and wanted the Israelites to obey His exact commands. We need to do that today as well!
- 3) Do activities to see what pieces were to be in the tabernacle and what the tabernacle looked like.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Tabernacle Articles Activity – one per student
- Tabernacle Connect- the-dot Activity Sheet – one per student
- Visual Aid of Tabernacle – one for class to see and share
- Visual Aid of Aaron’s Priestly Garments – one for class to see and share

Optional:

- Tabernacle Matching Game Set – one set per two children (Printed on cardstock paper so they can’t see through the page)
- Scissors to share – if having students cut out the card game set themselves or cut out yourself before class.

Snack:

- Graham Crackers or crackers in square shape 6 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Once children are seated say:

Does anyone remember what we studied last week? We studied that God told Moses to come up to the mountain along with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Joshua and the seventy elders. They ate and drank with God and His glory settled on the mountain of Sinai. During this time, the people confirmed the covenant or promises God made.

This week we will see that God asked the Israelites to bring offerings of gifts and skills to build a tent or tabernacle that was to be a dwelling place for the Lord that could be moved along with the Israelites as they stayed in the wilderness. We will also study the design, the furniture and the priestly garments that were to be used for service in the tabernacle.

God wanted to be among the people. God wanted a relationship with them and He wants a relationship with us too! God is among us today in His Word, His Holy Spirit, His Son and in the church family! God loves you and everyone in the whole world and wants to be close to you, just like He wanted to be close to the Israelites. You are blessed because God loves you!

2) God Asks for Offerings and a Tabernacle

10-15 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

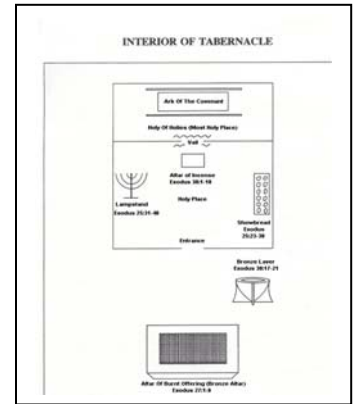
Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 25. Ask for a volunteer to read from

Exodus 25:1-9 or read yourself. After you have finished the reading, say:

What were some of the things God asked that the people voluntarily offer? Gold, silver, bronze, yarn, linen, goat hair, ram skins, acacia wood, olive oil, spices, stones and gems.

What were these to be used for? To make a sanctuary or dwelling for the Lord and the Lord would dwell among them.

Did God say He would explain exactly how it was to be made? Yes!



Go through Exodus 25-31 looking at each of the headings: example the Ark, Table, Lampstand, Tabernacle, etc. Show the students where on the visual aid, each article was located.

Read **Exodus 26:30-37**

Then show the students the tent visual aid and where the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place were located.

Tabernacle simply means "tent".

- 1) Once section called the "holy of holies" was 10 feet by 10 feet in size
- 2) Once section called the "holy place" was 20 feet by 20 feet in size
- 3) The furniture that is to be found there is given in Exodus 25-31

Read **Exodus 27:20-21**

Why where the Israelites to bring oil for the lampstand? They were to keep the lamp burning from evening till morning as an everlasting ordinance or rule for all generations.

Read **Exodus 28:1-4**

Who were to serve as priests? Aaron and his four sons – Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

What was the sacred garments made up of? Breastpiece, ephod, robe, tunic, turban and sash.

Show the students the picture of Aaron's Priestly Garments to show what he would have looked like. This was important as Aaron was to be High Priest and make burnt offerings to God on Israel's behalf.

Read **Exodus 29:38-46**

What was the priests to offer every day? Two lambs a year old with fine flour and oil and wine.

Why? So God would meet with them there and so it would be a pleasing aroma to God.

Who would consecrate the Tent of Meeting? God in verse 44.

If God made all these details and plans and wanted the Israelites to follow them exactly; how do you think He wants us to follow Him today – as we want or how He wants? How He wants! If we want to follow God we need to do it how He has commanded in the New Testament, not the way we think or feel it should be.

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) Tabernacle Connect the Dots Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Hand out one page to each child along with pencils with erasers and possibly crayons. Explain to them that, **“God asked the Israelites to make a tabernacle or tent. Connect the dots – starting with 1 and counting up – to see what the finished picture looks like.”** Go around the room, helping as needed.

4) Tabernacle Articles Activity

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet per student with crayons or pencil. Read the instructions and words aloud. Have students turn to Exodus 25:8 to fill in the blanks. Go through the Bible to find each article mentioned. Read what it was for and have the children look at the sheet to see the article’s description and appearance. Pass around the visual aid as well so students can see where the articles were to go. If time allow students to color the articles.



5) Optional – Tabernacle Matching Game Set

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to every two children. Either cut out the cards before class, or give the students scissors to cut half the page each out so that they have the cards cut out to make one set.

Choose what game they play from the list below:

Matching: 2 player game one or two complete sets of cards

Take one or two sets of cards, mix them up and place them spread out each face down. Have each student take turns picking two cards – if the card is the same (same picture) they get to keep the set. If they don’t pick a set, the other person gets a turn. Continue until all cards have been matched and count how many pairs to see who won. As they match – have them look to the Exodus 25-31 to see what article they found and where it was on the visual aids you provide.

Go “Fish”

Mix the cards. Have one to two complete sets for two players. Distribute 5 cards to each player. Put the remaining cards face down in the middle of the table as a pile from which to draw. Each player looks at his or her cards and lays down any exact pairs that he or she might have. The student who did not distribute the cards gets to go first and ask the other student for a card to match one he or she already has in their possession. If that person has the card, it must be handed over. That student then lays down the matching pair and may continue to ask for a matching card as long as he or she continues making matches. If the student does not receive a card that makes a match, he or she draws a card from the pile and may try to match it to a card in his or her possession. If it does match, the student may draw again. If no match is made, that student’s turn is over. When a player runs out of cards, two more should be drawn from the pile and the game continues until all cards are paired. The victor is the one with the most pairs. As they find pairs – have them point on the visual aids where that piece of furniture would be located.

6) Optional – Snack: Graham Cracker Tent

5 minutes

Hand out 6 crackers to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. *Ensure no child has a nut or gluten allergy beforehand. Tell the students, **“Like the Israelites we are going to make a tent or tabernacle out of our crackers before eating them. Try and put two crackers together by leaning them towards each other to make the first part of the tabernacle – The Holy of Holies.**

This was the special part of the tabernacle only meant for the Ark of the Covenant. Next add the other four crackers, leaning two together so that your tent is longer and this part is double the size of the Holy of Holies. This was the Holy Place where most of the other articles were to be kept. There you have it! A special tent or tabernacle. Let the children now eat their crackers and enjoy their snack.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

7) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

God help us in studying the Old Testament. Thank You that You gave us the Bible to learn from and to see that You have specific plans and desires for us to please You and that You want a relationship with us as You did the Israelites. May this lesson help us understand that it is important that we follow You and do as You say. Thank You God that we now can talk to You in prayer like this anytime and anywhere and have God and Jesus His Son in our lives every day! Pray for those who are sick or away travelling and pray that we will tell our family and friends about You and how wonderful and loving God is. In Jesus name, Amen.