



The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

First- and second-graders crave attention and positive feedback from adults. Use this natural inclination to please, to teach kids that they can honor God in everything they do. Use this lesson to help kids see that although they're young, they can still serve God in big ways.



► Bible Point


We all can serve God.

Key Verse

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will use their talents to serve God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Service Tour <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Tour the church, and look for different ways people serve God.	large sheet of paper, marker	
2 Bible Exploration	Different but Equal <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn how the Israelites worked together to build the Tabernacle.	Bible, CD player, 1 small and 2 large cardboard boxes, masking tape, construction paper Teacher Pack: CD, “Tabernacle Plans” poster, “The Israelites Build the Tabernacle” (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	
	In All You Do <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, sing a song, and discover what it means to do things for Jesus.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, pencils, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Difference Necklaces <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make necklaces with a variety of beads that represent the differences between them.	thin string, scissors, different beads for each child (as many beads per child as children in your group)	Cut a 20-inch length of thin string for each child. Tie a large knot in one end of each length so beads won't fall off.
	Filling the Toolboxes <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Depict special tools they can use to serve God.	My Bible Fun, crayons, several pairs of scissors, yarn, glue, construction paper	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Fun	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Generous Offerings

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It was time for the Israelites to build a portable dwelling place for the worship of God. When Moses asked for contributions, the people gave generously. Apparently the events of the previous months inspired them to give to God. They may have realized how they had wronged God in worshipping the golden calf and wanted to do what they could to make amends for the damage done. They gave so generously that eventually they had to be told to stop bringing more materials (Exodus 36:6-7)!

One might wonder where these former slaves got gold and fine cloth to donate to the Tabernacle. The answer lies in the generosity of the Egyptians as the Israelites were escaping. God told the Hebrews to ask for things from the Egyptians; the Egyptians responded with silver, gold, and clothing (Exodus 12:35-36).

Talented Workers

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Not only did the Hebrews give things, but they gave time and talents as well. This passage singles out Bezalel and Oholiab as the leaders of the workers and also mentions women skilled in spinning goat hair (Exodus 35:26) and other skilled and willing people (Exodus 36:2).

Willing Worship

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What can we learn from this event? Serving God involves all kinds of different tasks and abilities. If you can't build a structure, maybe you can spin cloth. If you can't sing, maybe you can tell a co-worker about Jesus. Each one of us has God-given abilities and spiritual gifts. God wants us to use what he's given us to serve and honor him in whatever ways we can. God can use anyone to serve him and to further his

kingdom here on earth. The only thing stopping our service to him is ourselves.

The Jesus Connection

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Our relationship with Jesus gives us daily opportunities to serve him. He is our friend, our Creator, and our Savior. Service is a choice we make on a daily basis. But how often do you analyze your motives for serving? Wrong motives can rob us of blessings and limit our effectiveness in service.

For the Christian, service comes out of thankfulness for salvation and devotion to honor our Creator. If we are not serving for those reasons, perhaps we're really self-serving. Write a prayer here asking God to refine and hone your heart as you serve today and each day going forward.



Service Tour Supplies

large sheet of paper
markers

1 GETTING STARTED

Service Tour

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we're going on a tour of the church. We'll stop and talk about what people do in several rooms. As we take our tour, think about how the different people serve God in our church. Also remember to respect others by being quiet so they can worship God.**

Lead children on a tour of your church (include the outside of the building if weather permits). Stop at each room, and talk about how different people serve God in that room. For example, nursery teachers serve God by showing babies God's love and letting parents attend worship.

When your tour is complete, return to the meeting area. Invite the children to draw a diagram of your church on a large sheet of paper.

Lead children in recalling some of the things they discovered on your tour, and record their discoveries in the appropriate areas on the diagram of your church.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What surprised you about our tour?**
- **Why do you think there are so many different ways people can serve God?**
- **What are some ways you enjoy serving God?**

Say: **No matter who we are, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. God made each of us different, and he has a job for each of us. And no jobs are more important than others. No matter how God made us, we all can honor God in special ways.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Different but Equal

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 35, and show kids the passage. Say: **In the Bible today, we'll learn that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. In Exodus, we'll hear about God's people, the Israelites, and how they worked together using their talents and skills to serve God.**

Show "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" poster.

Play "Building the Tabernacle" (track 8 on the CD). Pause the CD when prompted, and say: **What types of things would you be able to do to help build a beautiful building?** Let several children answer. If they struggle to answer, you can suggest ideas such as painting, gathering materials, or making sure the workers have snacks and drinks when they need breaks.

Then say: **Tell about some other people you know who could help build a beautiful building.** Let several children answer. They may mention relatives who are construction workers, plumbers, electricians, seamstresses, or business owners with supplies.

Say: **Let's hear what the Israelites did to help build the Tabernacle. As you listen, choose a motion to pretend you're helping, too.** Check that every child has a motion, such as pretending to hammer, sew, or climb a ladder. Then continue playing "Building the Tabernacle" (track 8 on the CD).

Say: **Everyone has things they're good at, and ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. That's one thing the Israelites learned as they built the Tabernacle. Let's work together to build a tabernacle of our own.**

Hang the "Tabernacle Plans" poster where everyone can see it. Set out one small and two large cardboard boxes, construction paper, and masking tape. If you have a large group, split your children into groups of 10 or fewer children and have them work in their groups to build separate tabernacles, and adjust your supplies accordingly.

Say: **As we work together to create our tabernacle, everyone can help. Remember, we all have something to give to God's work. The poster on the wall will tell us the four things we need to do in order to build our tabernacle. Let's work together.**

Encourage kids to work cooperatively as they build a tabernacle. Help them follow the four steps illustrated on the poster: creating the base of the building, making the ark of the covenant, installing the roof, and then finishing with a courtyard. Be sure all children participate in some way. As kids work, remind them that they're working together just as the Israelites worked together to build the Tabernacle.



Different but Equal Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- 1 small and 2 large cardboard boxes
- masking tape
- construction paper
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Building the Tabernacle" (track 8)
- "Tabernacle Plans" poster
- "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)



When the tabernacle is complete, have kids clean up any leftover materials and then step back and form a circle around what they created.

Say: **Look at that! These are the results of your hard work together. Each of you helped build the tabernacle in your own special way, just as the Israelites did. And each of you can serve God in your own special way.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you use your talents to serve God in our activity today?
- Tell about another time you served God.
- What are some ways you think God wants you to serve in your family this week?

Say: **We all had an opportunity to serve as we built our tabernacle today. God gives each one of us special talents that we can use to serve him. In fact, God wants us to serve him in everything we do. This week as we remember that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, let's try to serve our families and all those around us.**

In All You Do

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Israelites used their skills to serve God, and we can, too. In fact, our Key Verse helps us think more about that.**

Open your Bible to Colossians 3:17, and show it to kids. Say: **Our Key Verse today tells us to use those skills to serve God in everything we do. It says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."** Have the children repeat the verse with you several times: **"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).**

We have a song today that will help us remember the words to our Key Verse. I'll play it for you, and then we can all sing together.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Whatever You Do" (Colossians 3:17) (track 9 on the CD) through once or twice. Then lead kids in singing and doing the motions.

🎵 **Whatever, whatever,** (*wave hands in front of self*)
What-what-what-what whatever. (*wave hands in front of self*)
Whatever, whatever, (*wave hands in front of self*)
What-what-what-what whatever. (*wave hands in front of self*)

(Verse)

And whatever you do, (*wave hands in front of self*)
Whether in word or deed, (*touch finger to mouth and then to hand*)

In All You Do Supplies

Bible
 My Bible Fun
 CD player
 pencils
 1 copy per child of the
 lyrics page (at the end
 of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Whatever You
 Do" (Colossians 3:17)
 (track 9)

In All You Do Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 7
 pages from each My
 Bible Fun student book.



Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

And whatever you do, *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whether in word or deed, *(touch finger to mouth and then to hand)*
Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him. *(touch heart and then point up)*

(Repeat verse 3x.)

Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*

“Whatever You Do” (Colossians 3:17) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Our Key Verse says, “whatever you do,” just as our song did.** Invite the children to tell some things they do every day. Then give each child a pencil and a Lesson 7 My Bible Fun page, and point out the “In All You Do” activity.

Say: **Look at the first two pictures. In both pictures, the boy is raking the yard. But he has a different attitude in each picture. Draw a circle around the picture in which the boy looks like he’s serving God.**

Give kids a few moments to circle, and then have kids explain their choices. Repeat the same process for the second picture.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **As we said our Key Verse and sang our song, what things were you thinking about in your life?**
- **Tell some things you do, like we saw in the pictures, that you can do “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”**
- **Why do you want to serve God with a joyful attitude?**

Say: **The Bible tells us to do everything as if we’re doing it for the Lord. That means that even if we’re doing something that we’d rather not be doing, like picking up our toys, we do it cheerfully because we know God always takes care of us. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD like that!**





Difference Necklaces Supplies

thin string
scissors
different beads for each
child (as many beads
per child as children in
your group)

Difference Necklaces Easy Prep

Cut a 20-inch length
of thin string for each
child. Tie a large knot in
one end of each length
so beads won't fall off.

Filling the Toolboxes Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons
several pairs of scissors
yarn
glue
construction paper

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Difference Necklaces

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's make necklaces to remind us ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, just as the Israelites did when they built the Tabernacle.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Give each person a piece of string. Distribute beads to all the children, giving each child a different type of bead. Each child will need as many beads as there are children in the group.

Say: **Let's make necklaces together. Place one of your beads on your piece of string. Then pass the string to the person on your right. As you receive a string from the person on your left, place one of your beads on that person's necklace. Then pass that necklace to the right. We'll continue to do this until everyone has added a bead to every other person's necklace.**

Help kids tie the ends of their necklaces together.

Say: **Look at our necklaces. They're all the same, but they also show us how different we are. Each person added something special to each necklace, just as ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD in our own special ways.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you like about your necklace?**
- **Tell about some unique talents or things you like about yourself.**
- **What are some ways you can serve God with those specific things you mentioned?**

Say: **God made each of us unique, and ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD with our unique personalities and talents. We can be thankful for who God made us to be and how he wants to use us. When the Israelites built the Tabernacle, they all put in what they could. This week, let's work together with others and put in what we can in the name of Jesus.**

Filling the Toolboxes

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Direct children to the "Service Toolbox" picture on their My Bible Fun page.



Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** And we all have special tools we can use to do that. Let's think about some of the tools we can use to serve God. Encourage kids to brainstorm ideas.

Say: Use these craft supplies to fill the toolbox with "tools" you have that you can use to serve God. For example, if you're a friendly person, you could use the yarn to make a smile in your toolbox. Or you might write the name of someone you could invite to church. Or if you get an allowance, maybe you can cut out some "coins" from the construction paper and glue them in your toolbox. Or maybe you could write about singing a song at church.

As children work, help them think of ideas, such as greeting visitors, giving money in the offering, or helping others clean up the church. Encourage kids to think of things they're good at, and then ask them how they can use those talents to serve God. Kids can draw, write, use craft supplies, or cut out pictures to fill their toolboxes.

When kids finish, ask willing kids to explain their toolboxes to the rest of the group.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the ways our toolboxes are alike or different?
- Why do you think we all have such different tools?

Say: If we all had the same exact talents and skills, it'd be hard to get things done. That's a reason God made all of us unique, kind of like how we made our toolboxes different. We can all work together to get things done, and God gives us all special purposes. ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD,** just as the Israelites did.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Let's think about how ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Ask a parent to help you donate some of your clothes to a local shelter, and thank God for helping you serve him.
- Help your mom or dad set the table for dinner, and tell her or him that God wants us to serve him.
- Invite a new friend to church with you, and let him or her know that God loves us all.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun pens





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Fun

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **We all have the tools to honor God in all we do. Let's use those tools this week. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we all can serve God. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for making us each unique. Invite each child to find something in his or her toolbox that he or she wants to pray over. Have each child point to that thing so everyone can see, and then take a moment while kids pray silently for God's help with serving him using that "tool" this week. Then pray: **God, thank you so much for giving us these tools. Thank you for making it possible for all of us to honor you. Help us use these tools to serve you. Show us how we can all honor you in special ways. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Lyrics ■■■■

Whatever You Do (Colossians 3:17)

Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*

(Verse)
And whatever you do, *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whether in word or deed, *(touch finger to mouth and then to hand)*
Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

And whatever you do, *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whether in word or deed, *(touch finger to mouth and then to hand)*
Do it all in the name *(stretch hands high)*
Of the Lord Jesus. *(point up)*

Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him, *(touch heart and then point up)*
Giving thanks to God the father through him. *(touch heart and then point up)*

(Repeat verse 3x.)

Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*
Whatever, whatever, *(wave hands in front of self)*
What-what-what-what whatever. *(wave hands in front of self)*

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