

The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38



► **Bible Point**
We all can serve God.

Key Verse
“You shall have no other gods before me”
(Exodus 20:3).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will serve God by serving others in daily life.

Most 5- and 6-year-olds enjoy serving others and helping with small chores. Children this age can have a job and be an important part of the church family. They can do things like picking up trash or cleaning up the meeting room. By helping with these chores, kids feel that they can serve God, too. Use this lesson to help kids understand that they can serve God by serving others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	The Only God Play a finger game, and learn about the Key Verse.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what an inflatable hammer has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, inflatable hammer	Place the inflatable hammer in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Building Teams Work together to build God’s Tabernacle.	Bible; CD player; pieces of red, yellow, purple, or blue yarn or cloth; pieces of wood; birthday candles; containers of spices (cinnamon or cloves, for example) Teacher Pack: CD	Hide the pieces of yarn or cloth, pieces of wood, individual birthday candles, and containers of spices around the room in places where the kids can easily find them when it’s time.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: How to Build a Church Decorate pictures of a Tabernacle for God.</p>	My Bible Playground, pencils, fabric scraps, colored foil paper, several pairs of scissors, glue, craft sticks	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Tools of the Trade Create banana hammers, and serve a friend.</p>	five 1-inch banana slices per child, 5 pretzel sticks per child, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: A Big Job Create a tabernacle blanket fort, and praise God in the “tabernacle.”</p>	bedsheet or lightweight blanket, jewelry, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, inflatable hammer	
	<p>Center 4: Talented Servants Have a talent show to exhibit skills kids could use to serve God.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Playground, washable markers	
	<p>“Temple” Prayer Follow motions to a prayer.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player


Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome!"

(track 20), "If You Want
to Serve" (track 16)


1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing "Welcome!" (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "Camptown Races."

 **Welcome to God's house today.** (*partners link elbows and skip in a circle*)

Hello! Howdy! (*wave to partner*)

Welcome to God's house today. (*partners link elbows and skip in a circle*)

Won'tcha come right in? (*use hand to motion "come here"*)

Gonna sing and play. (*cup hands round mouth and sing loudly*)

Gonna learn and pray. (*fold hands in prayer*)

Welcome to God's house today. (*partners link elbows and skip in a circle*)

Everyone say, "Hey!"

Hey! (*partners give high fives*)

(Repeat.)

Say: I'm so glad you're all here. Today we'll learn that God has a plan for all of us and that ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let's sing a song about serving God.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing "If You Want to Serve" (track 16 on the CD).

 **If you want to serve the Lord, do it now.** (*kneel down*)

If you want to serve the Lord, do it now. (*pretend to serve someone*)

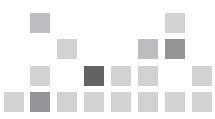
You can give what you have, (*pretend to give something to God*)

Or you can help where you can. (*jump*)

If you want to serve the Lord, do it now. (*spread arms overhead*)

(Repeat 4 times.)

Say: God wants to use each of us. ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. There are so many ways for us to serve him that we all have a place and a way to serve. Whether you're good at sports, you enjoy music, or you are good at something else, there are ways for you to serve God. Let's find out how God's people, the Israelites, all served God.**



2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

The Only God

What You'll Do

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Exodus 20:3, says, "You shall have no other gods before me." That means we can worship God and put him first in our lives, no matter what else is going on in our lives. Let's practice our simplified Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Teach your children to play a finger game. Start with your palm open and fingers spread. With your other hand, touch your fingers one by one, starting with the index finger. After touching each finger, curl it down (except the thumb). As you touch each finger, say a word from the Key Verse:

- index finger = Have
- middle finger = no
- ring finger = other
- pinkie = gods
- thumb = before me.

Point out that when you're finished, all the fingers are "bowing down" to the thumb. Do this several times with the children so they can do it on their own.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Our Key Verse today tells us to have no other gods before God. When we put God first, it's a way to serve God. Today we'll hear how ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD as we listen to what happened with God's people.**



The Only God Supplies

Bible





Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"

(track 3)

inflatable hammer

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the inflatable
hammer in the Surprise
Box, and hide the
box where it's easily
accessible.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody! Have you seen any tools lying around?

Teacher: Hello, Theo! I don't think I have. Could you stay with us a while as we look in our Surprise Box?

Theo: Oh, sure, but I can't stay too long, I need to find my dad's tools.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the inflatable hammer around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)

Theo: Oh my goodness! This is one of the tools I was looking for. My dad is building a bookshelf, and he needs his hammer.

Teacher: That sounds kinda like what we're going to read about in the Bible today, Theo. Today we're going to learn how God's people worked together to build a special church called a Tabernacle for God.

Theo: Tab-a-knuckle—that sure is a funny word.

Teacher: No, Theo, it's Tab-er-nacle. Can you guys help Theo say this word?
(Pause for kids to respond.)

Teacher: That sounded good. When God asked his people to build him a Tabernacle, all of the people were able to do something to help because ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

Theo: That sounds really cool. I have to go. Hope you don't mind me taking this hammer with me. Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think of Theo's plan to help his dad build a bookshelf?**
- **Tell about a time you helped someone build something.**
- **How can you serve God when you work with other people to make something?**

Say: **No matter what we're doing, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD in everything we do. God asked his people, the Israelites, to build him a special church where he would meet with them. Today we can meet with God anywhere when we pray. We can ask God how to serve him when we pray.**

Bible Time: Building Teams

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 35:4–36:38, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll learn how the Israelites built a Tabernacle, which is a church building for God. God told Moses to ask the Israelites to bring supplies and to volunteer their time and skills to build the Tabernacle. Before they could begin to work, they needed to donate supplies.**

Let's see if we can find anything in our room that would help build a Tabernacle. Have kids search the room for anything that might help build a beautiful Tabernacle for God. As kids search, play "Thankful" (track 15 on the CD).

After a few minutes, have kids assemble again and show you what they've found.

Say: **God asked for specific supplies. Let's see if we found anything we can use. Jump up and say "Serve God!" if you have any of the items I list.**

- Red, yellow, purple, or blue yarn or cloth**
- Wood for building**
- Lights**
- Spices (cinnamon or cloves, for example)**

Play "Thankful" (track 15 on the CD) again as kids search for the rest of the supplies around the room. When they've found all of the supplies, have them gather again.

Say: **The Israelites had worshipped God outside in the hot desert. They were so excited to hear they would have a nice place to worship God. The Israelites willingly gave more supplies than what was needed. Let's use our supplies to decorate our room so it's a pretty place to meet with God.** Allow time.

Say: **► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD by giving things to him or by doing things for him like helping at church. Let's sing a song to worship God and thank him for being so wonderful.** Lead kids in singing and following the motions for "Thankful" (track 15 on the CD).




Bible Time: Building Teams Supplies

- Bible
- pieces of red, yellow, purple, or blue yarn or cloth
- pieces of wood
- birthday candles
- containers of spices (cinnamon or cloves, for example)
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Thankful" (track 15)

Bible Time: Building Teams Easy Prep

Hide the pieces of yarn or cloth, pieces of wood, individual birthday candles, and containers of spices around the room in places where the kids can easily find them when it's time.



 I like to think about *(point to head)*

The goodness of the Lord.

He gives me everything I need and so much more, *(point to things around the room)*

So I just wanna lift my hands *(lift hands)*

And say that I love him! *(cross arms over chest)*

I just wanna lift my heart in praise! *(lift hands)*

And I wanna be thankful! *(clap)*

I wanna be grateful! *(jump)*

I wanna remember everything that the Lord has done!

I wanna be thankful! *(clap)*

I wanna be grateful! *(jump)*

I wanna be! I wanna be! I wanna be!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

And I wanna be thankful! *(clap)*

I wanna be grateful! *(jump)*

I wanna remember everything that the Lord has done!

I wanna be thankful! *(clap)*

I wanna be grateful! *(jump)*

I wanna be! I wanna be!

I wanna be! I wanna be!

I wanna be! I wanna be!

I wanna be!

“Thankful” by Jay Stocker. © 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you like most about the new decorations in our room?
- What’s one way you like to serve God?
- What’s something you can do for God this week?

Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD** in everything we do. When we’re helping our parents at home, that’s one way we can serve God. When we’re playing with friends at school or church, we can serve God by showing his love. The Israelites gave even more than what was needed because they were so excited to serve God. Let’s serve God with that kind of enthusiasm, too.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

How to Build a Church

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Israelites built a Tabernacle to show how much they loved God. We can serve God in many ways. Just like the Israelites made the Tabernacle beautiful for God, we can make our hearts available for God to use us.**

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Give the children colored foil paper, small scraps of fabric, scissors, glue, and craft sticks to use for the pillars. Let kids glue items to the pages to create their beautiful pictures.

When kids finish their art, have them walk their fingers around on their pages and pretend to admire the Tabernacle with a partner.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **The Israelites enjoyed serving the Lord. They were excited about having a place to go to worship God. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. When we serve God, he wants us to do it with a happy attitude. When we make our hearts ready for God, it makes God happy.**

CENTER 2:

Tools of the Trade

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When the Israelites built the Tabernacle, they used lots of different kinds of tools. If you've ever helped your mom or dad build something, you know that it takes a lot of tools to make things. Let's make some tools out of our snacks to help us remember to serve God.**

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table.



Center 1: How to Build a Church Supplies

My Bible Playground
pencils
fabric scraps
colored foil paper
several pairs of scissors
glue
craft sticks

Center 1: How to Build a Church Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Center 2: Tools of the Trade Supplies

five 1-inch banana slices per child
5 pretzel sticks per child
paper plates
antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT



Distribute snack supplies. Show kids how to create hammers using the pretzel sticks and banana slices. Have kids practice serving by each making five banana hammers and giving them to the child sitting to their right at the table.

Say: **Let's pretend to build something using these hammers.** Give kids a little time to pretend. Then pray for the snacks and let kids enjoy.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to make your snack and then give it to someone else?
- What's another way you can serve God?

Say: **There are many ways ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. One way we can serve God is by helping Mom or Dad around the house or doing nice things for others. Just as the Israelites served God by building a lovely Tabernacle, we can serve God by helping others.**

■ CENTER 3:

A Big Job

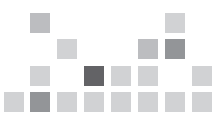
What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Let the children use the supplies to create their own make-believe tabernacle. Let them use the inflatable hammer to pound the table as they pretend to build.

Then lead kids in singing and doing the motions to "Do It for God" (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Center 3: A Big Job Supplies

bedsheet or lightweight
blanket
jewelry
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Do It for God"
(track 14)
inflatable hammer



 **Whatever you do-o-o,** *(make a window-wiping motion with your hand)*
Do it for God. *(point up)*
Whatever you do-o-o, *(hug the person next to you)*
Do it for God. *(point up)*
Whatever you do-o-o, *(make a window-wiping motion with your hand)*
Do it for God. *(point up)*
Do it for God today. *(hold hands out with palms up)*
(Repeat.)



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What different jobs did you do when you built your tabernacle?
- What are some things you could do in our church to serve God?

Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** God wants us to serve him by doing whatever we can to make him number one—that makes him happy. The Israelites gave gifts and spent their time working to serve God. No matter what we do, we can always find ways to serve God. No one is ever left out.

CENTER 4:

Talented Servants

What You'll Do

Say: **The Israelites used all of their different talents to serve God. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too.** God gives each of us different talents that we can use to bless other people and serve him. Let's do a quick talent show to share our different talents.

Have kids form groups of four and spend a few minutes preparing their individual talents to show to their groups. After two minutes, have kids show their groups their talents. Allow about a minute per child for the talent show portion of the activity.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is it like to share your talent with other people?
- Tell about a time you used this talent and it helped someone else.
- In what way do you think you could use the talent you showed your group for God?

Say: **No matter who you are or what things you do well, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** He made each of us different, and that's a great thing! The Israelites each





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers

had different tasks in getting the Tabernacle built for God. And just like they all did different things, none of us will do exactly the same thing in the same way. God made us all different and that's wonderful!

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives throughout the week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice serving God.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Make cookies for a snack, and pass them out to your neighbors. Tell them you like to serve others as a way to serve God.**
2. **Help your mom and dad by making your own bed and their bed, too. Then talk with your parents about serving God.**
3. **Take birdseed to your backyard to feed the birds. You are serving God by taking care of the birds.**

Say: **If you want to make cookies, circle choice number 1. If you want to help your parents, circle choice number 2. If you want to feed the birds, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Temple” Prayer

What You’ll Do

Lead kids in the motions to this prayer.

Pray: **Dear God,**

We know that you’ve given us all different gifts. (*pretend to give a gift to someone*)

Help us use them to serve you. (*kneel down as if serving God*)

Show us how we can help others. (*pat someone on the back*)

And let us serve you with love. (*give a hug to a friend*)

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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



