



UNIT 5 | SESSION 4

THE PEOPLE BUILT THE TABERNACLE

EXODUS 35–40

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus to be with people.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Let's worship God. Psalm 95:6

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God told His people to build a tent church.
- The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special.
- God sent Jesus to be with people.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

God told Moses to build a tabernacle, or a tent church, and told him how to build it. God's people brought supplies to build the tent. The people worked together to build the tent for God. Part of the tent was made of wood. It had curtains and a roof. Inside, the people made furniture. Every part of the tent was special. God chose Aaron and his sons to serve in the tent. Aaron put on special clothes that the workers made. He was a priest. Aaron's sons served God as priests, too. God was always with His people.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for the babies. Open a Bible to Exodus 35. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“If you’re happy and you know it, worship God. (Repeat)

If you’re happy and you know it, then your praise will surely show it.

If you’re happy and you know it, worship God.”

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church. The tent church would be a place to worship Him. God was always with His people. ”

2 FOAM BLOCK BUILDING

Provide foam blocks for babies to play with and build a tabernacle. Help babies stack blocks on the floor or in your lap.

SAY “ You built block towers just like the people built a tent church. God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. ”

3 DIFFERENT FABRICS



Provide different fabrics (silk, cotton, linen, wool, and so forth) for the babies to hold and feel. Allow babies to touch different types of fabrics and feel the difference in texture.

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church. The people made every part of the tent church special. The people used different fabrics to make the tent church curtains special. The people worked together to build the tent for God. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Exodus 35. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 COTTON BALL ART

Draw a simple tent on a piece of construction paper. Provide some washable paint and smocks or bibs for toddlers. Clip cotton balls to the end of spring-type clothespins. Show toddlers how to hold the clothespins and dip the cotton balls into paint to color their tent churches.

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. ”

3 MUSIC WITH TOOLS

Provide various play tools (hammers, screwdrivers, and drills). Have toddlers softly bang them on the floor or table while singing “My God Is So Big.” If you are unfamiliar with this tune, look it up online before the session.

SAY “ People worship God by singing and making music. God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special for God. ”

4 BUILD A TENT CHURCH

Allow toddlers to drape sheets or blankets over chairs and tables to build a tent. Have the toddlers work together to build the tent church.

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. ”

5 PLAY TOOLS

Provide various play tools (hammers, screwdrivers, bolts, and drills) for toddlers to explore. Allow toddlers to hold and examine the tools to see how they are used.

SAY “ God’s people used special tools to help build the tabernacle. You are holding tools that can be used now to build a church. God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. ”

THE PEOPLE BUILT THE TABERNACLE

EXODUS 35 – 40

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus to be with people.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Let's worship God. Psalm 95:6

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: TENT FABRIC ART

Provide precut fabric pieces and glue sticks for toddlers. Allow toddlers to glue the fabric onto a piece of construction paper. Print God told His people to build a tent church at the top of the construction paper.

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. The people used fabric just like this to make the tent church. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“If you’re happy and you know it, worship God. (Repeat)

If you’re happy and you know it, then your praise will surely show it.

If you’re happy and you know it, worship God.”

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church as a place to worship Him. The people obeyed. Every part of the tent was special. God was always with His people. ”

3 DRESS UP LIKE AARON

Bring oversized shirts and ties. Allow toddlers to take turns dressing up like Aaron. Review the Bible story and the importance of Aaron, as priest and as Moses’ brother.

SAY “ Aaron put on clothes that the workers made. Aaron and his sons served as priests in the church. Priests led people to worship God. We dressed up like we were priests, just like Aaron. ”

4 GOD MADE VS. PEOPLE MADE WALK

Take a walk around the church with the toddlers using either a walking rope or stroller according to your church’s security guidelines. Point out things you see that were created by God (trees, birds, grass, and so forth). Point out things you see that are made by people (buildings, cars, furniture, and so forth). Ask toddlers who made those things. Lead toddlers to answer either “God” or “people.”

SAY “ God told His people to build a tent church. The people worked together to make every part of the tent church special. We have seen many things that people can work together to make, but we have also seen things that only God can make. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.