



The Tabernacle!

God comes to live with us!

Story #19 | Ages 4–10 | Exodus 25–31, 35–40

1 God's Blueprint!

Scripture: Exodus 25-27 | Theme: God designs a perfect home

Up on the Mountain



Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for **40 DAYS** and **40 NIGHTS**! God didn't give vague suggestions. He gave **EXACT** instructions with **PRECISE** measurements! "Make me a **SANCTUARY** so I may **DWELL** among them." Colors: **BLUE**, **PURPLE**, and **SCARLET** yarn. Precious metals: **GOLD**, **SILVER**, and **BRONZE**. Fine linen, goat hair, ram skins dyed red. Acacia wood, olive oil, spices, and onyx stones. The **ARK** of the Covenant. The **TABLE** for bread. The **GOLDEN LAMPSTAND** with seven branches. The **ALTAR OF INCENSE** and a beautiful courtyard. Every detail mattered because God is **PERFECT**! He was drawing a picture of something even **BIGGER**!

"And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you..." — Exodus 25:8-9

Exact Instructions Game

Give someone paper and crayons. Describe a simple drawing **WITHOUT** showing it. See if they draw it exactly! God's plans are always perfect!

Willing Hearts



God told Moses: "Ask the people for offerings."

"But **ONLY** if their hearts are **WILLING**."

The response was **INCREDIBLE**!

Men, women, and children poured in:

Gold earrings! Silver bracelets! Bronze trinkets!

Fine fabrics, blue yarn, purple cloth, scarlet thread!

Goat hair, ram skins, acacia wood, spices, oil, and onyx!

They brought **SO MUCH** that Moses had to say:

MOSES SAYS:

"STOP bringing more! We have **MORE** than enough!"

God also chose special workers.

He filled **Bezalel** with His Spirit —

with wisdom, understanding, and skill for every craft!

And **Oholiab** to teach others!

Everyone had a part to play in building God's house!

"And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him..." — Exodus 35:21

Tiny Truth

When God asks us to give, He doesn't want leftovers. He wants **GLAD**, willing hearts!

Offering Box

Decorate a box for spare change. Each week, give joyfully to God's work. He **LOVES** a cheerful giver!

The Courtyard



The Tabernacle wasn't just one tent.
It was an entire **CAMPUS** of worship!
The **OUTER COURT** was surrounded by beautiful curtains
—
hanging on silver hooks from acacia wood posts in bronze
bases.
Colors of **blue, purple, and scarlet!**
On the **BRONZE ALTAR**, animals were sacrificed.
This showed that **sin costs a life**.
Between the altar and the tent stood the **BRONZE LAVER**
—
a big basin where priests washed their hands and feet.
No one could serve God DIRTY!
The whole courtyard said: "**Come near, but come CLEAN.**"

*"You shall also make a basin of bronze... for washing." —
Exodus 30:18*

Courtyard Walk

Use blankets and chairs to make a path. Walk it slowly and
remember: we come through the **cross** (sacrifice) and are
washed clean (laver = Jesus)!

The Holy Place



Inside the tent was the **HOLY PLACE**.
On the left: the **GOLDEN LAMPSTAND** with **7 BRANCHES!**
It burned pure olive oil **ALL NIGHT LONG**.
Light in the darkness — just like **GOD'S PRESENCE!**
On the right: the **TABLE OF SHOWBREAD**.
12 FRESH LOAVES representing the 12 tribes of Israel.
Bread that says: "God **PROVIDES** for His family!"
Straight ahead: the **ALTAR OF INCENSE**.
Sweet-smelling smoke rose up day and night.
This was the **PLACE OF PRAYER!**
Every item was a promise waiting to be **fulfilled!**

*"Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so
that they light the space in front of it." — Exodus 25:37*

Tiny Truth

Every person and every gift matters in God's house. **YOU**
have a purpose!

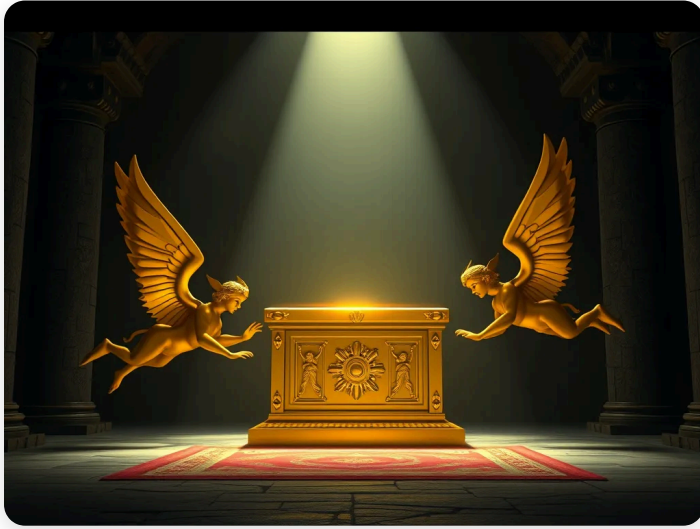
I Have a Part!

Write your name on a paper heart and tape it to your door.
You are part of God's family team!

3 The Most Holy Place!

Scripture: Exodus 25:10-22; 40:34-38 | Theme: God meets us in mercy

The Ark & Mercy Seat



Behind a thick curtain was the **MOST HOLY PLACE**.
This was **GOD'S THRONE ROOM** on earth!
In the center: the **ARK OF THE COVENANT**.
A box of acacia wood overlaid with pure **GOLD**.
Inside: the stone tablets of God's Law,
a jar of **MANNA**, and Aaron's rod that **BUDDERED**!
On top: the **MERCY SEAT** — solid gold!
Two golden **CHERUBIM** faced each other.
Their wings stretched out and **TOUCHED** overhead!
This is where God said: "I will **MEET** with you."
But there was a problem... the Law said the people had **BROKEN** it!
The Mercy Seat said: **God covers our sin with His presence!**
Only the High Priest could enter — and only **once a year**!

"There, above the cover between the two cherubim... I will meet with you." — Exodus 25:22

Treasure Chest

Decorate a shoebox to look golden. Inside, put a paper heart labeled "Jesus covers me!" This is your Mercy Seat!

The Glory Fills It!



When everything was finished **EXACTLY** as God commanded...
Moses set up the Tabernacle piece by piece.
He placed the Ark inside. He hung the curtains.
He lit the lamps. He put the bread on the table.
And then... the **CLOUD OF THE LORD** covered the tent!
The **GLORY OF THE LORD** filled the Tabernacle!
Moses could not even **ENTER** because the glory was so thick!
The **PILLAR OF CLOUD** by day and the **PILLAR OF FIRE** by night
rested **RIGHT ABOVE** the Tabernacle!
When the cloud lifted, the people packed up.
When the cloud settled, they camped.
GOD WAS LIVING WITH HIS PEOPLE!

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." — Exodus 40:34

Tiny Truth

God's glory is SO BRIGHT we can't stand it... but He made a **WAY** for us to get close!

Cloud Watch

Look for clouds today. Imagine God's glory resting near **YOU**. He really does!

✨ Jesus Tabernacled!



The Tabernacle was beautiful...

But it was just a **SHADOW** of something greater!

Many years later, John wrote:

"The Word became flesh... and **DWELT** among us."

The word "dwelt" is literally **"TABERNACLED"**!

JESUS is the **TRUE TABERNACLE**!

He is the **BREAD** of Life (like the Showbread).

He is the **LIGHT** of the World (like the Lampstand).

He is the **PERFECT SACRIFICE** (like the Bronze Altar).

He is our **HIGH PRIEST** who entered Heaven itself!

He is the **MERCY SEAT** where God and sinners meet!

On the cross, the thick Temple curtain **TORE IN TWO**!

From top to bottom! God opened the way for EVERYONE!

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory..." — John 1:14

👏 Shadow Match

Hold your hand to a lamp to make a shadow. The shadow looks like your hand but isn't the real thing. The Tabernacle was a shadow — **Jesus is the REAL thing!**

🏠 Forever Home



When Jesus comes again, we won't need a Tabernacle!

John saw a vision of the **NEW CREATION**:

"Behold, the **dwelling place** of God is with man!"

"He will dwell with them, and they will be His people."

God **HIMSELF** will be with them as their God!

NO MORE curtains.

NO MORE distance.

NO MORE "once a year."

FACE TO FACE FOREVER!

And right **NOW**, God's Spirit lives in **YOU**!

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit!

Wherever you go, the Tabernacle goes!

That's why we shout with joy:

GOD COMES TO LIVE WITH US!

"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people." — Revelation 21:3

💡 Tiny Truth

You are God's **living Tabernacle**! He chose to live **INSIDE** you!

👤 Carry the Temple!

Each morning this week, say: **"The God of the universe lives in ME today!"** Then go love people like Jesus!

**Build a Mini Tabernacle**

1. Use a shoebox as the Most Holy Place (paint the inside dark blue/purple).
2. Drape a towel or sheet over it for the tent covering.
3. Make an Ark from a small box covered in gold foil or yellow paper.
4. Make a lampstand from pipe cleaners or clay with 7 "flames" (yellow pompoms).
5. Use crackers for Showbread and cotton for the cloud of glory!
6. Read Exodus 40:34–38 and shout "God lives with US!"

**High Priest's Breastplate**

1. Cut a large cardboard rectangle for the chest piece.
2. Paint or cover it with gold paper.
3. Glue on 12 "gemstones" (buttons, stickers, colored paper, or beads) in 4 rows of 3.
4. Each color represents one of the 12 tribes of Israel!
5. Tape yarn on the back to wear it over your shoulders.
6. Pretend to be the High Priest entering God's presence — only Jesus does it perfectly for us!

Sing to the Tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat":

*"Build, build, build with joy,
Purple, blue, and gold!
God is coming, live with us,
Stories to be told!"*

*Incense, bread, and light,
Mercy Seat above!
Jesus is our truest home,
Covered by His love!"*

**Family Discussion Time**

1. God gave very specific instructions for the Tabernacle. Why do you think every tiny detail mattered to Him?
2. The people gave so much that Moses said "Stop!" What does that teach us about giving to God's work?
3. The Ark had manna, Aaron's rod, and the 10 Commandments inside. What did each item remind Israel about?
4. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year. Why is it different for Christians today?
5. John 1:14 says Jesus "tabernacled" among us. How is Jesus like the Tabernacle?
6. Revelation says God will dwell with us face to face forever. How does that hope change how you live today?

Story #19 of the Biblical Adventure Series. Faith-building visual storytelling for family discipleship.

Next Story Preview: Giants in the Land! — God is bigger than the biggest giant! (Numbers 13–14)

God Comes to Live With Us!

The curtain walls, the golden light,
The ark that held His Law so right,
But shadows all, and passing fast —
Until the TRUE One came at last!
No longer tents of linen made,
But flesh and blood, in which He stayed!
And soon, no veil at all between —
We'll see Him face to face, serene!
God's home is here, God's home is YOU,
Forever faithful, ever TRUE! 🏡 ✨ ❤️

📖 Next in this Series:

Giants in the Land!

God is bigger than the biggest giant!

Story #20 Coming Soon

Scripture quotations from the ESV® Bible.
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