

The Tabernacle

Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 25; 40

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 25:8

OPTIONAL VIDEO

Moses and the Ten Commandments

<https://southside.cc/759-876>

God lives with his people.

For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole Tabernacle. Tonight is about *where God lives with his people now* — moving from the tent in the wilderness to the places in a kid's actual week.

KEY TRUTH

God lives with his people.

Same bottom line as Sunday, by design. Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point.

The Tabernacle was a sign, not the end. Sunday showed that God moved into a tent in the middle of his people's camp. Tonight, push the line forward: that tent was God saying "I want to live with my people." The same God now lives with us through Jesus and his Spirit. The kids don't need a theology lecture — they need to *find* God's presence in their own week. That's what tonight's activities do.

What to skip. Don't re-read all the building instructions. The kids did Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read Exodus 25:8 (the verse) and Exodus 40:34 (the climax). If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up: "God told his people to build a tent so he could live with them, and when they finished it, his glory filled it."

Energy management. Wednesday is built around a kinetic build-the- tent activity and a quiet small-group reflection. The build gets loud and busy. Lean into it — kids learn shapes with their hands. Bring the energy down for the prayer card and closing.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Construction paper in brown, blue or purple, and yellow
- Glue sticks or tape
- A long piece of string or a roll of masking tape (to mark out the Tabernacle outline on the floor — optional)
- **God Lives With Me** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

SAY

On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. Say it with me: God lives with his people.

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to build something with their hands and then talk about where God lives with them right now. But first, a quick review.

2. The Story

Quick Review

ASK

What did God tell his people to build at Mount Sinai, and why?

You're looking for: a tent — the Tabernacle — so that he could live with them. If they say "a church" or "a temple," that's fine — push them to "a tent." The portable part matters. God went *with* them.

Re-Read the Verse

Have them open to Exodus 25:8. Pick a confident reader.

Exodus 25:8

Now have a different student read the climax of the story:

Exodus 40:34

ASK

What filled the Tabernacle when it was finished?

The glory of the LORD. The cloud settled on the tent. God moved in.

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

SAY

God lives with his people.

3. The Work

Build a Mini Tabernacle

Hand out construction paper, glue, and pencils. Tell the kids each of them is going to build a small flat version of the Tabernacle on their desk. Walk them through it as a group, one piece at a time. Don't worry about it being neat — the kids are learning the shape, not making art.

If you marked out a Tabernacle outline on the floor with masking tape before class, point to it now and use it as the reference. The brown paper is the outer wall. The blue or purple paper is the curtain. The yellow paper is the lampstand inside.

Step 1 — The walls. Cut the brown paper into a rectangle. Glue it to a fresh sheet as the outer wall of the Tabernacle.

Read together: *Exodus 26:1.*

Step 2 — The curtain. Cut a thin strip of blue or purple paper. Glue it across the middle of the brown rectangle. That's the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

Read together: *Exodus 26:33.*

Step 3 — The lampstand. Cut a small yellow shape. Glue it inside the Holy Place — on the side of the curtain *not* hidden behind the cloth. That was the light inside the tent.

Read together: *Exodus 25:31.*

When the kids are done, have them hold up their tents. Then ask:

ASK

What was the most important thing inside the tent — even more important than the lampstand or the curtain?

God's presence. The whole reason for the tent was so God could live with his people.

Where God Lives With Me

Bring the kids back together and have them sit in a circle with their Bibles closed. Read together:

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 25:8

Make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell among them.

DISCUSSION

1. The Tabernacle was a tent in the wilderness a long time ago. Where does God live with his people today?

→ *In the church when we gather, in our hearts through Jesus, with us by his Holy Spirit. Don't fix the kids' first answers — let them name where they actually feel close to God.*

2. Where in your week do you feel like God is with you the most?

→ *Listen for: at church, at bedtime when they pray, at the dinner table, when they're sad and someone prays with them. Specifics are the gold here.*

3. Where in your week is it the hardest to remember God is with you?

→ *Listen. Don't fix. Some honest answers: at school, when I'm fighting with a sibling, when I'm scared at night, when something bad happens. Any honest answer is the right answer.*

4. The Point

God Lives With Me Prayer Card

Hand out the **God Lives With Me** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

God, help me remember you live with me when I _____.

Tell them to pick *one* place or moment from their week where they want to remember God is with them. Not the easy places. The hard ones. *When I'm by myself at recess. When my parents are arguing. When I'm scared at night.*

NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask: "Where this week do you forget God is right there with you?" Help them turn it into a sentence they can put on the card.

Memory Verse and Closing

When they're done, have everyone come back together. Read together one more time:

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 25:8

Make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell among them.

Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

SAY

God lives with his people.

Close in prayer:

PRAY

God, you told your people to build a tent so you could live with them in the wilderness. You filled that tent with your glory. Today you live with us through Jesus and your Holy Spirit. When we go home and put these cards somewhere we'll see them, help us remember every time that you are right here with us — at school, at home, in the loud places and the quiet ones. Thank you for being a God who lives with his people. Amen.