

# The Israelites Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 35:4–36:38

Preschoolers love to help. It makes them feel grown up and like they're members of the team. It also builds their self-esteem. Use this lesson to help children discover that they can serve God, too, by serving others in their family, community, and church.



► **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 others by serving God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>No Other Gods</b> Play a game about worshipping only God.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Hear how Theo wants to serve God.	CD player, Theo puppet, spoon, string <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tie the spoon to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle</b> Bring supplies, and then build a "tabernacle."	Bible, blocks <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "The Israelites Build the Tabernacle" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Hide blocks around the room.

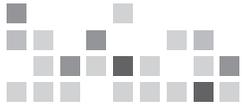
*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: God's Church</b> Decorate a church building.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons, glue sticks, scraps of paper, ribbon, stickers	Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Construction Snack</b> Build edible churches.</p>	graham crackers, frosting, craft sticks, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: God's House Is Beautiful!</b> Make crafts, and learn they can serve God anywhere.</p>	paper plates, markers, various colors of modeling dough	
	<p><b>Center 4: Church-Rubbing Cards</b> Make thank-you cards for church helpers.</p>	crayons, 1 copy per child of the "Thank-You Card" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the wrappers from several crayons.
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Put away blocks, and sing a prayer song.</p>	block tabernacle from the Bible Time activity	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate



**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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.

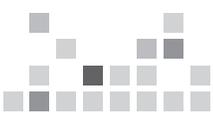
 **We're so glad you're here today.**  
**Hooray! Hooray!** (*clap to the beat*)  
**We're so glad you're here today.**  
**Hooray! Hooray!** (*clap to the beat*)  
**We're here to worship God today**  
**To dance and shout and sing and play.**  
**So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"**  
**Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!** (*clap to the beat*)  
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **It's great to celebrate that we're all here today. Today we'll learn that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. And one of the ways we serve God is by singing to him. Let's do that now.**

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Lead kids in singing and clapping their hands or stomping their feet.

 **Let everything that moves,**  
**And everything that breathes,**  
**Praise the Lord.**  
**Praise the Lord.**

**From the rising of the sun**  
**'Til the time that it goes down,**  
**Praise the Lord.**  
**Praise the Lord.**



Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!  
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.  
Let everything that lives  
Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that walks,  
And everything that runs,  
Praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.

No matter where you are,  
No matter where you've been,  
Praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!  
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.  
Let everything that lives  
Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!  
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.  
Let everything that lives  
Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

Let everything that lives  
Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Great singing, everyone! Today we get to hear how God's people did something really great—they built a place to worship God. They all helped in their own special ways. Like those people, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let's learn how.**





## No Other Gods Supplies

Bible

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### No Other Gods

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This means God is number one in our lives. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Say: **Let's play a game with our Key Verse. I'll go around the outside of the circle and tap each person on the shoulder as I say each word, "Have no other gods before me."** Demonstrate this step for children.

Say: **When I say the word "me," whoever I touch should jump up and chase me around the circle back to our starting spot.** Practice this step with children. After you practice, say: **Then it's that person's turn to be the "tapper."** Demonstrate by having the child you practiced with repeat the process.

Play the game until everyone has a chance to say the Key Verse and be chased.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like when you were the only one being chased?**
- **Tell about a time you had all of someone's attention.**
- **Why is it good to give God all your attention?**

Say: **God tells us to have no other gods before him—that means he wants our attention and love. One way we can give him attention and love is by serving him. Today we'll hear how some people served God and how ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

**3** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** I brought a serving spoon.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring a serving spoon to church, Theo?

**Theo:** Because I want to serve you.

**Teacher:** That's great, Theo! How are you going to serve us?

**Theo:** I'm going to serve you some mashed potatoes.

**Teacher:** That's very sweet of you, Theo. And I know you like mashed potatoes, but would it be okay if you serve us another time? We'd love to spend time with you and serve you, too, but we're just about to read the Bible now.

**Theo:** Oh, of course.

**Teacher:** Great! We'll look forward to it. And do you know what? We're even learning about serving God today. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.)*

**Teacher:** And today in the Bible we'll hear how the Israelites served God by building a church.

**Theo:** So serving is putting someone first?

**Teacher:** That's right!

**Theo:** Oh. Then I'm going to put you first by letting you read the Bible now. I'll serve you some mashed potatoes later.

**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.

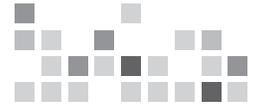
**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you wanted to serve someone like Theo did.
- Why might you want to serve God?

Say: **It was great to see how Theo wanted to serve us. Today we'll learn how the Israelites served, or helped, God, and we'll learn how ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**



**Puppy Pointers  
Supplies**

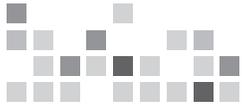
- CD player
- Theo puppet
- string
- spoon

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 3)

**Puppy Pointers  
Easy Prep**

Tie the spoon to Theo's paw.



### Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle Supplies

Bible blocks  
**Teacher Pack**  
 “The Israelites Build the Tabernacle” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

### Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle Easy Prep

Hide blocks around the room.

## Bible Time: Building the Tabernacle

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 35–36, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God’s special book.

Show the “Israelites Build the Tabernacle” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack). Say: **Today’s Bible passage tells us that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let’s hear how God’s people, the Israelites, helped God.**

Call kids’ attention to the “Israelites Build the Tabernacle” poster. Encourage children to point out details they see in the poster, such as ways the people helped build the church or materials they donated.

Say: **God told the Israelites to help build a tabernacle, which is like a church, where they could come and worship him. Their leader, Moses, said to the Israelites, “Please bring anything you can to help us build the church.”** Ask the children to name things we might need to build a church, such as wood, hammers, nails, or ladders.

Say: **Whew! We need a lot to build a church. Let’s pretend to be Israelites now and find blocks that we can use to build a church.** Have children form pairs, and ask pairs to look around the room for blocks. Encourage children to bring all the blocks to one pile. Then have children gather around the pile of blocks.

Say: **The Israelites helped God. They brought so many things that Moses had to tell them to stop! Just as we have lots of blocks, the Israelites had lots of things to build a church with.**

**Once they had all the stuff, God still needed lots of help from the Israelites to build the church. God needed workers. Who can work to help us build the church? We can all help God by building the church.**

Instruct the children to make several stacks of three blocks each and place the stacks right next to each other. Help the children create a simple square with the stacks. When children have used all the blocks, have them applaud and cheer for the work they’ve done. Leave the block tabernacle standing for the closing prayer.

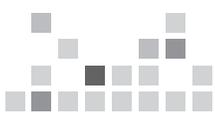
Say: **You’ve done a wonderful job! You’ve helped God by building a church. Helping God is serving God. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

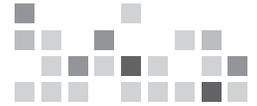
Ask:

- What was it like to look for blocks and build a church today?
- What are some ways you’re a good helper?



Say: **You can be a good helper and serve God, just like the Israelites. They shared their things, and they helped do the hard work. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD by sharing our things and helping, 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:

## God's Church

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 7 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we heard how the Israelites shared their things and helped with the hard work of building a church for God. The churches on our My Bible Hugs pages aren't finished. They're like a partly built building. Let's help finish them.**

Encourage children to each decorate their church building by drawing, gluing ribbon and scraps, and putting stickers on it. As they work, remind children that the Israelites gave a lot of their own things and worked very hard to build God's church.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Our Bible Point says ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Bible Point with you. **If we do something because we love God and want to put him first, we are serving God. Let's keep our church pages to remind us to serve God.**

### Center 1: God's Church Supplies

---

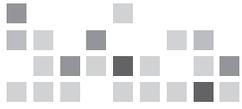
My Bible Hugs  
crayons  
glue sticks  
scraps of paper  
ribbon  
stickers

### Center 1: God's Church Easy Prep

---

Remove the Lesson 7 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.





### Center 2: Construction Snack Supplies

graham crackers  
frosting  
craft sticks  
paper plates  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

### ! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

### Center 3: God's House Is Beautiful! Supplies

paper plates  
markers  
various colors of  
modeling dough

## CENTER 2:

# Construction Snack

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: ► **WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. We heard in the Bible today how the Israelites built a church for God. Let's build a church with our snacks.**

Show children how to use the craft sticks to spread frosting on the graham crackers and cement them together to build edible churches.

Say: **Let's thank God for giving us ways to serve him and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack. Then allow the children to eat their creations.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to build churches like the Israelites with your snack?
- What are some ways people can serve God?
- Tell about a way you want to serve God this week.

Say: **The Israelites served God by giving everything they had to help build the church. They were also special helpers. ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too, when we share and when we help others.**

## CENTER 3:

# God's House Is Beautiful!

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we heard how the Israelites built a beautiful church for God. And we learned that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD, too. Sometimes people call a church "God's House." Let's make some beautiful houses for God.**

Give each child a paper plate. Set out various colors of modeling dough, and show kids how to make a ball about the size of a small orange. Show them how to gently press it down on their paper plates to make a cube shape that looks like a building. Let your children add other colors to their buildings to look like doors, windows, or plants along the edge.

Remind children that we can serve God no matter where we are.

## Talk With Kids

Say: **We make God so happy when we serve him. We can serve him anywhere. You can serve God when you're at church, at your babysitter's house, at your grandparents' house, or at your home by doing nice things for your family. Just like the Israelites, ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

### CENTER 4:

## Church-Rubbing Cards

### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's make a craft to help us remember that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. Let's make thank-you cards for people in our church.** Help the children think of people who serve the church on a regular basis, such as the pastor, the secretary, the janitor, or the music director.

Say: **We read in the Bible that the people all brought things to help build the church for God. Let's all find something in the room to help us with our craft.** Allow them to walk around the room—or the church building if you're accompanying them—and search for unique textures. Bricks, wood, and carpeting will work well.

Say: **After they brought all the supplies, they went to work. Let's get to work making our craft.** Give each child a "Thank-You Card" page and some unwrapped crayons. Show children how to place their cards on the texture and then rub the side of a crayon over the church shape on their papers. To avoid accidental coloring on the textures, encourage children to fill only the centers of their papers with the crayon rubbings.

Let the children take turns dictating simple messages to the people they have chosen to thank who serve in the church. Then have children deliver the cards.

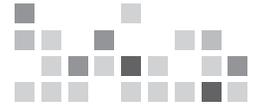
## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you like thanking someone for helping God?**

Say: **You helped God by thanking the people who work in our church! It's important to know that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD.**

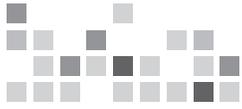


### Center 4: Church-Rubbing Cards Supplies

crayons  
1 copy per child of the "Thank-You Card" page (at the end of the lesson)

### Center 4: Church-Rubbing Cards Easy Prep

Remove the wrappers from several crayons.



## Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

## Action Prayer Supplies

block tabernacle from  
the Bible Time activity

# 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned 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 this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► WE ALL CAN SERVE GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to serve God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Make a snack for yourself and a friend. Before you eat, thank God for helping you serve others so that you can serve God.**
- **Pick up trash around your house or neighborhood with your parents. Remember that you are serving God when you are helping others.**

Say: **If you want to make a snack, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to pick up trash, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs 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!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children stand in a single-file line from the tabernacle they built to the place the blocks are kept. Explain that they'll put away the blocks while they sing a prayer. They'll pass the blocks, one at a time, from one end of the line to the next while they sing. Lead children in singing "Serve God Every Day" (not on the CD) to the tune of "King of Kings."

Pray: **Dear God...**

Then begin handing the blocks to the first child in line as children sing this song.

**Help me serve you every day—Glory! Hallelujah!**  
**Help me serve you every day—Glory! Hallelujah!**  
**Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Hallelujah!**  
**Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Hallelujah!**

Repeat the song until the blocks have been put away.

Say: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

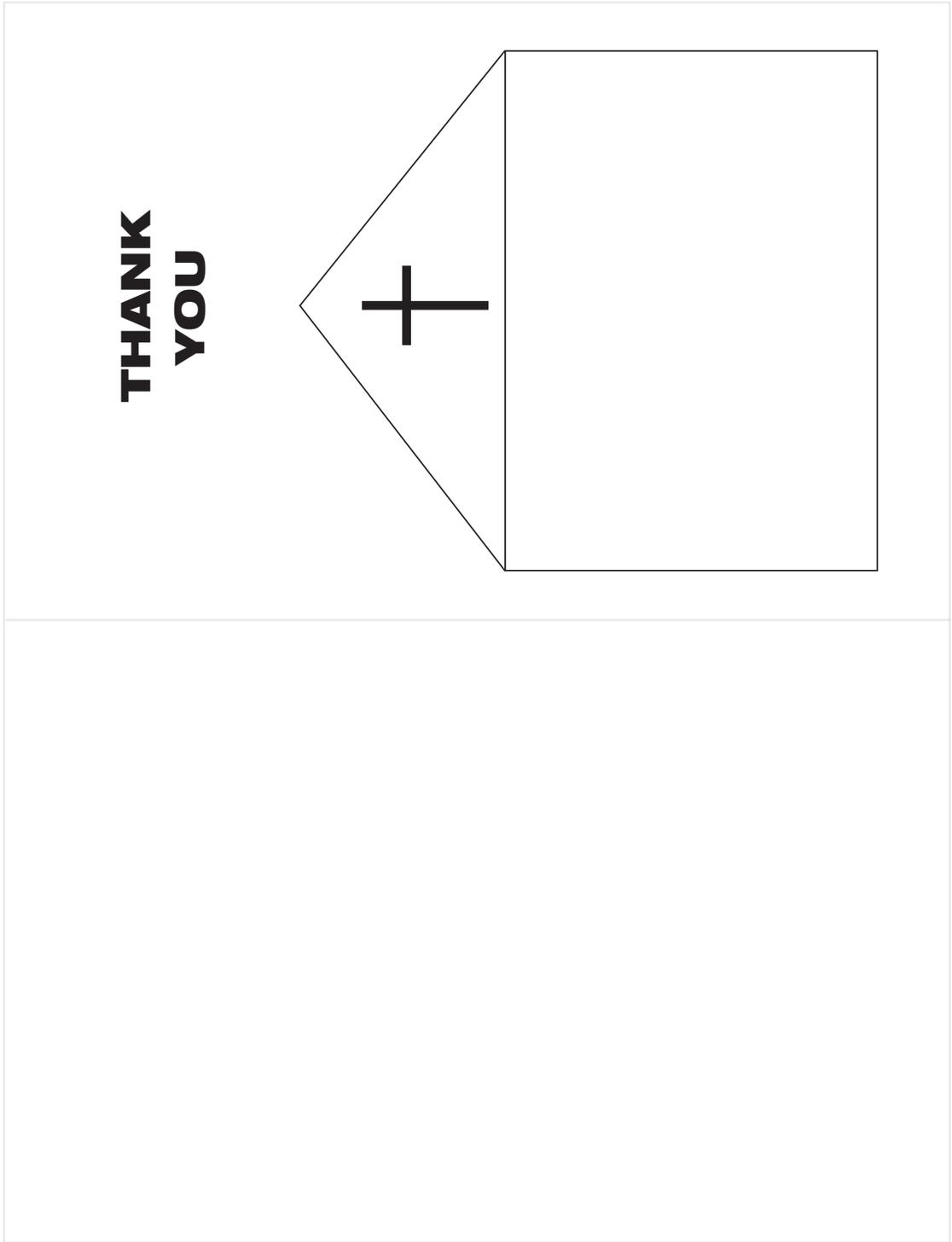
## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs 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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during 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](http://group.com/digital).



# Thank-You Card



**THANK  
YOU**



**! OK  
TO COPY**

