

Story Time: Read the story to the children:

Lesson 46: THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 36:8 - 40:38

The skilled workers got together to make the sacred tent and its linen curtains woven with blue, purple, and red wool and embroidered with figures of winged creatures. The material for the tent was made out of goat hair weaved into sections. Two other coverings were made--one with fine leather and the other with ram skins dyed red. Acacia wood was used to build the frames for the walls of the sacred tent. The frames and the crossbars used to hold the top up were all covered with gold, and gold rings were attached to the frames to run the crossbars through. They made the inside curtain of fine linen woven with blue, purple, and red wool, and embroidered with figures of winged creatures. For the entrance to the tent, they used a curtain of fine linen woven with blue, purple, and red wool and embroidered with fancy needlework. They made five posts, covered them completely with gold, and set them each on a gold-covered bronze stand. Finally, they attached hooks for the curtain.

A man named Bezalel built a chest made out of acacia wood. He covered it inside and out with pure gold and put a gold edging around the top. He made four gold rings and fastened one of them to each of the four legs of the chest. Then he made two poles of acacia wood, covered them with gold, and put them through the rings, so the chest could be carried by the poles. The entire lid of the chest, which was also covered with pure gold, was called the place of mercy. On each of the two ends of the chest he made a winged creature of hammered gold. They faced each other, and their wings covered the place of mercy. Then Bezalel built a table made out of acacia wood and covered it with pure gold and put a gold edging around it. Everything that was to be set on the table was made of pure gold--the bowls, plates, jars, and cups for wine offerings. Bezalel then made a lampstand out of pure gold. The whole lampstand, including its decorative flowers, was made from a single piece of hammered gold, with three branches on each of its two sides. The lamp and its equipment, including the tongs and trays, were made out of about seventy-five pounds of pure gold. For burning incense, Bezalel made an altar of acacia wood. He covered it with pure gold and put a gold edging around it. Bezalel mixed the oil for dedication and the sweet-smelling spices for the incense.

He also built an altar out of acacia wood for offering sacrifices. Then he made a large bowl and a stand out of bronze from the mirrors of the women who helped at the entrance to the sacred tent. Around the sacred tent Bezalel built a

courtyard one hundred fifty feet long and seventy-five feet wide. For the entrance to the courtyard, Bezalel made a curtain thirty feet long. This curtain was made of fine linen embroidered and woven with blue, purple, and red wool. Bezalel had worked closely with Oholiab, who was an expert at designing and engraving, and at embroidering blue, purple, and red wool. The two of them completed the work that the LORD had commanded.

Moses made Aaron's son Ithamar responsible for keeping record of the metals used for the sacred tent. According to the official weights, the amount of gold given was two thousand two hundred and nine pounds! The silver that was collected when the people were counted came to seven thousand five hundred fifty pounds!

Beautiful priestly clothes were made out of blue, purple, and red wool for Aaron to wear when he performed his duties in the holy place. This was done exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses. The entire priestly vest was made of fine linen, woven with blue, purple, and red wool, and it had threads made out of pure gold woven into it! Onyx stones were set in gold settings, and each one was engraved with the name of one of Israel's sons. Then these were attached to the shoulder straps of the vest, so the LORD would never forget his people. Everything was done exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses. The priestly robe was made of blue wool with an opening in the center for the head. This robe was to be worn by Aaron when he performed his duties. Everything that Aaron and his sons wore was made of fine linen woven with blue, purple, and red wool, including their robes and turbans, their fancy caps and underwear, and even their sashes that were embroidered with needlework. "Dedicated to the LORD" was engraved on a narrow strip of pure gold, which was fastened to Aaron's turban.

So the people of Israel finished making everything the LORD had told Moses to make. Then they brought it all to Moses: the sacred tent and all its equipment. When Moses saw that the people had done everything exactly as the LORD had commanded, he gave them his blessing.

The LORD said to Moses: Set up my tent on the first day of the year and put the chest with the Ten Commandments behind the inside curtain of the tent. Then put everything in its place as I commanded you. Use the sacred olive oil to dedicate the tent and everything in it to me. Do the same thing with the altar for offering sacrifices and its equipment and with the bowl and its stand. Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent and have them wash themselves. Dress Aaron in the priestly clothes, then use the sacred olive oil to ordain him

and dedicate him to me as my priest. Put the priestly robes on Aaron's sons and ordain them in the same way, so they and their descendants will always be my priests. Moses followed the LORD's instructions. And on the first day of the first month of the second year, the sacred tent was set up. Then the altar for offering sacrifices was put in front of the tent, and animal sacrifices and gifts of grain were offered there. The large bronze bowl was placed between the altar and the entrance to the tent. It was filled with water, then Moses and Aaron, together with Aaron's sons, washed their hands and feet. In fact, they washed each time before entering the tent or offering sacrifices at the altar. These things were done exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses. Finally, Moses had the curtain hung around the courtyard. Suddenly the sacred tent was covered by a thick cloud and filled with the glory of the LORD. And when that happened, Moses could not enter the tent. Whenever the cloud moved from the tent, the people would break camp and follow it wherever it would lead them; then they would set up camp and stay there until it moved again. No matter where the people traveled, the LORD was with them. Each day his cloud was over the tent, and each night a fire could be seen in the cloud.

46. THE TABERNACLE

(EXODUS 36:8 – 40:38)



“And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, *and* they brought the LORD'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all His service, and for the holy garments.”

EXODUS 35:21

46. THE TABERNACLE

(EXODUS 36:8 – 40:38)

MEMORY VERSE:

“How lovely is your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!” PSALM 84:1

TRUE OR FALSE

1. All the skilled people came to help make the tabernacle.
TRUE or FALSE
2. The Israelites went to the store and bought all the things to go inside the sacred tent. TRUE or FALSE
3. The people did exactly what the LORD told Moses to do.
TRUE or FALSE
4. A man named Bezalel made a chest and covered it with pure gold.
TRUE or FALSE
5. The priests had special robes and vests to wear.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Did the people give a lot of gold for making the things in the tabernacle?
2. What happened when Moses finally finished everything and put the curtain up around the tabernacle? Did a thick cloud cover the tent?
3. Who do you think was in that thick cloud? Was it the LORD?
4. What did the people do when the thick cloud moved? Did they follow it?

46. THE TABERNACLE

This is a picture of what the tabernacle may have looked like.





Building the Tabernacle

Lesson 46 Craft/Activity

Tissue Paper “Stained Glass Windows”

You will need one 9”x12” piece of white tissue paper per child for the “glass,” two sheets per child of black construction paper for the outside frame, red, blue and purple tissue paper (the same colors used for the curtains in the tabernacle) and white glue (not glue sticks). Make two black frames to go in front and back of the “glass” by folding the black construction paper in half and cutting a rectangular hole (to discard) leaving about 1” around the edges. These can be stapled or glued together with the tissue paper inside. For the colors, cut strips of red, blue and purple tissue paper about 2” wide, then take small stacks of them and cut small triangular shapes by making diagonal cuts. Just a small amount of paper will make lots of triangles. Lightly apply white glue on the white paper and then let the kids place the triangles to form any design they choose.

Meet Me There

Play a variation of 20 questions. Have a place picked out in your mind that you want your class to guess. For example, you may be thinking about the hot desert where Moses and the children of Israel were or a deserted island in the middle of the ocean. Keep it simple so that the children can guess.

Next, have the children sit in a circle and take turns asking you a question about this place. Keep going around the circle until the place is guessed. You can do this two or three times with the final place to be the place that you wish to “meet” them.

After you have played this game, make this point: God never makes us guess where to meet Him or how to find Him. The people of Israel knew that the Spirit of God dwelt in the tabernacle. He now lives in the hearts of His people, and we can meet with Him anytime we want to. May we meet with Him often, “continually.”

What a privilege it is to serve such an awesome God!

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of Christ on their behalf and the awesome truth that God wants to dwell in His children. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.