



K-1st Lesson

Review

- ? Refer to Lesson 58 Flip Chart. Who remembers what sinful thing the Israelites did while Moses was up on Mount Sinai? They made a golden calf and worshipped it.

Yes. Soon after God had given them the Ten Commandments, the people turned away from him and made an idol of a golden calf and worshipped it.

God was ready to destroy the Israelites for their sin, but Moses prayed and God showed mercy to the Israelites. Even though they were still punished, God did not wipe them out.

- ? Today, I have a question for you. How many of you have ever watched someone build something or seen your mom bake a cake or cookies? Show of hands.
- ? Did they do it all by themselves, or did they have instructions to follow? Allow answers.

I want to see how well we can build something with these blocks without using any instructions. Set out the container of blocks you brought. We're going to build a church building together before the time is up. I'm going to set the timer (3-5 minutes). Are you ready? Have students take turns adding blocks to the building (without too much direction) as time allows.

Okay. Stop! Let's see how you did! Praise creativity and teamwork.

You did a great job! I gave you a task without giving a lot of instructions, didn't I? I said we would build a church, but I didn't say how big it should be or what shape to make it.

- ? But what if I wanted our building to look a certain way? What would I need to give you so you would know how to build it? Directions. Instruction book. Picture.

Show instruction book from a toy set or model. Flip through the instructions and point out the features as you describe them. These instructions are for a _____. They show you exactly how you're supposed to put the pieces together so you can build exactly what is shown on the front.

In our lesson today, God promised to dwell with the Israelites and stay with them. But he didn't let them build a place of worship on their own. God gave them special instructions!

The Tabernacle

We've seen how the Israelites didn't always do what God said. Let's find out if they followed his instructions for this special place.

Exodus 25:8-9

- ? Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Exodus 25:8-9.

God was going to tell Moses exactly how the people should build a special place to worship him. It was called a tabernacle. Say that with me: tabernacle. There would also be special furniture that would go inside of the tabernacle.

- ? What is furniture? What kind of furniture do we have in our classroom? Allow answers. Chairs, tables, shelves, etc.
- ? Right! Most pieces of furniture have a specific purpose. What is a chair for? What is a shelf used for? Allow answers.

Everything the Israelites were going to build had a special purpose, too.

- ? How did God expect them to follow his instructions? Listen again. Reread the first and last parts of Exodus 25:9, "Exactly as I show you . . . so you shall make it."

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. The people needed to follow God's instructions exactly as they put the tabernacle and furniture all together. It would include a large tent called the tent of meeting with a fence all around it.

Right inside the fence stood two things: an altar and a basin. The large altar was made from wood with shiny metal, called bronze, all over it. This is where the Israelites would bring animals to sacrifice for their sin when they came to worship. This reminded them that they were sinners and God was holy.

The basin was made of bronze, too. It was like a sink where the priests would wash. They led

the people in worship and did other special jobs—like sacrificing animals on the altar. The priests had to wash at the bronze basin as a reminder to be clean and holy as they served the Lord.

God chose Aaron and his sons to be the first priests. He wanted the priests to be set apart just like his tabernacle, so God gave instructions for making special clothes for them. God even told them which colors to use for the priest's clothing.

- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Look at Aaron's clothes in the picture here. What colors do you see? Allow answers.

Gold, blue, purple, and red were beautiful colors that God wanted Aaron, the first high priest, and his sons to wear for worship ceremonies and special announcements.

The Tent

Inside the tent of meeting were two rooms. The first room was the holy place, and only priests could go in there.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. There were three pieces of furniture in the holy place. They were all very beautiful with carvings of flowers and other decorations on them—and they were all made with gold! The first was a golden lampstand. It was an oil lamp that gave light inside the tent.

Then there was the table of showbread where 12 loaves of fresh bread were placed each week. Only the priests could eat it. The bread was a reminder how God provided manna for them in the wilderness.

The third item in the holy place was the altar of incense. Incense is a mixture of sweet-smelling spices. Aaron kept these spices burning regularly.

The other room inside the tent was called the most holy place. It had a veil of fine linen in front of it, like a curtain. Only the high priest was allowed to enter this room once a year.

In the most holy place was the ark of the covenant. Now, we're not talking about the kind of ark Noah built; this ark was a big wooden box, or chest, covered in gold.

- ? On top of the ark, there was a cover called the mercy seat with two golden cherubim on it. What are cherubim? Allow guesses. A type of angel.

The ark of the covenant with the mercy seat on top reminded the Israelites that God was with them and that they were sinners and needed God's mercy and forgiveness.

The Picture of Christ

God gave Moses a lot of instructions. But the Israelites followed them completely, which pleased God.

Remember how I said everything in the tabernacle had important meanings? Well, did you know that many parts of it also pointed to Jesus?

- ? For example, Jesus said he was the light of the world. Which item in the tabernacle gave light? The golden lampstand.
- ? Jesus said he was the bread of life. Which item in the tabernacle had bread on it? The table of showbread.

The bronze altar also pointed to Jesus. Remember, the priests had to sacrifice animals on this altar to cover the people's sins. But those sacrifices could not take away sin completely. So they had to do it over and over again.

But many years later, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be a sacrifice for us so our sins could be forgiven completely.

- ? How did Jesus die for us? Jesus died on the cross.
- ? How many sacrifices did Jesus make? Did he die over and over again? No. Just one time. A single sacrifice.

Because Jesus died, people don't need to keep sacrificing animals anymore. Jesus gave himself once as a sacrifice that was good forever.

So, the altar in the tabernacle where they made sacrifices reminded the people that they were sinners and needed forgiveness. It was a picture of what Jesus would do when he came to die on the cross to save sinners once and for all.

Refer to the instruction book from a toy set or model you showed at the beginning of the lesson. Most of us don't like to sit down and read instructions. But when we want to make something, we need good instructions to help us do it right. That's why God told Moses exactly how to make everything in the tabernacle because it was important: it was where the Israelites would worship God and understand their sin and need for a Savior!

The tabernacle was a place to worship God.

