

Lesson 59

God Dwells Among His People

God promised to stay with the Israelites. He gave them directions to build a place of worship.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God to help us with something.

I'll start. Dear God, would you please . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God is all-powerful? Omnipotent.
What does it mean that God is sovereign? God is in control of everything.
What promise is told all through the Old Testament? A Savior would come.
Who saves sinners from the punishment of sin? Jesus.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 58 Flip Chart. Who remembers how the Israelites sinned while Moses was up on Mount Sinai? Idolatry. They made a golden calf and worshipped it.

Yes. The people turned away from God and worshipped an idol of a golden calf. God was ready to destroy the Israelites for their sin, but he showed them mercy.

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 to put the pieces together so you can build exactly what is shown on the front.

The Tabernacle

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

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.

This special place to worship was called a tabernacle. Say that with me: tabernacle. There would also be special furniture that would go inside.

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, so they needed to follow God's instructions exactly as they put it all together.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. The tabernacle would include a large tent called the tent of meeting with a fence all around it.

Refer to the Flip Chart often, pointing out each item as you continue. Point to the priest on the Flip Chart. Do you see this man? He is a priest. God chose Aaron and his sons to be the first priests. They led the people in worship. God even gave instructions to make special clothes out of beautiful colors, like blue, red, gold, and purple, for the priests to wear.

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 priests would sacrifice animals the Israelites brought for forgiveness of sins when they came to worship God. 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 to remind them to be clean and holy as they served the Lord.

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 beautiful gold furniture in the holy place. First, there was a golden lampstand. It was an oil lamp that gave light so the priest could see inside the tent.

Then there was the table of showbread where 12 loaves of fresh bread were placed each week. It was a reminder to the Israelites of 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.

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

In this room was the ark of the covenant. This was not the kind of ark Noah built; this ark was a big wooden box covered in gold. On top of the ark, there was a cover called the mercy seat with two golden angels on it.

The ark of the covenant and the mercy seat 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 sin away completely. So they had to do it over and over again.

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

How many sacrifices did Jesus make? Did he die over and over again? No. Just one time.

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

So, the altar in the tabernacle where they made sacrifices reminded the people that they were sinners and needed forgiveness. And 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 in the beginning of the lesson. Most of us don't like to sit down and read instructions. But we need good instructions to help us build things 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!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

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."

Refer to the Flip Chart often, pointing out each item as you continue. 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!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions

Two beanbags

Three laundry baskets or boxes

Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Three chairs set out for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

Review Questions
Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
Rolled up socks
Masking tape
Ten sheets of paper
Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

Review Questions
White board or chalkboard
Markers/chalk
Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.),
tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

Limited License to Reproduce

A limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, nonsublicensable license is hereby granted to a single local church or organization to print copies of the PDF materials in the Teacher Digital Resources if 1) you are the original purchaser; 2) you are using the copies for noncommercial purposes (such as for teaching in class) exclusively within your single local church or organization (multi-campus churches, and national/regional denominations are not covered under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the curriculum pertaining to the printable materials.

This license is for the specific purchaser of the product and does not include affiliated groups or organizations, or other churches or groups in the same denomination as the purchaser, not identified as the actual purchaser. There is no limit to the number of printed copies for use within the single local church or organization which is the actual purchaser. None of the material in this curriculum may be reproduced for any commercial promotion, advertising, or sale of a product or service, or to share with any other persons, churches, groups, or organizations.

The media (audio/video) portions are copyrighted and duplication is prohibited. This license is for materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

Bible Version

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.