

The BIBLE Story

The Tabernacle Was Built

Exodus 35–40

When Moses was on the mountain with God, God said, “Tell the Israelites to make a tabernacle for Me so that I may live with them.” Then God gave Moses instructions for building the tabernacle, or tent of worship. God told Moses how to build everything that went inside it.

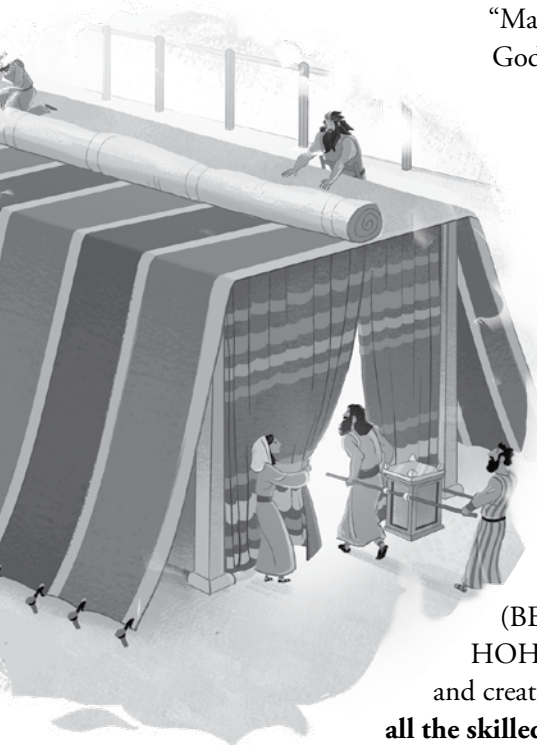
“Make it exactly like I show you,” God said.

So Moses gathered all of the Israelites together. He told them everything God had said, and **he asked them to bring materials to build the tabernacle. Everyone who wanted to give brought an offering for the tabernacle.**

People brought gold jewelry; blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair; animal skins; wood; oil; spices; and gemstones.

God gave two men, Bezalel (BEHZ uh lehl) and Oholiab (oh HOH lih ab), special skills for building and creating things. Bezalel, Oholiab, and **all the skilled people worked together to build the tabernacle for God.**

People kept bringing offerings of what they had. Pretty soon, the workers told Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough. We don’t need all of this to build the tabernacle as God instructed.” So



Moses told the Israelites to stop bringing their offerings.

Everyone working on the tabernacle built it just as God had said. The tabernacle had a wooden frame and places to hang the curtains and the roof of the tent.

Inside the tabernacle, the people made a veil. They made an ark, a table, a lampstand, and many other parts. **Every part had its special purpose and was made just as God had said.**

When the time came, God told Moses how to set up the tabernacle. God told him how to anoint, or pour oil on, the tabernacle to make it holy. **God told Moses to bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tabernacle. Aaron put on the holy clothing that the workers made, and Moses anointed him to be priest. Aaron's sons were anointed to serve God as priests, too.**

Moses did exactly what God commanded, and the tabernacle was finished. God was in a thick cloud. God made a sign for the people: If the cloud covered the tabernacle, the people would stay where they were. When the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, the Israelites would move and take the tabernacle with them. The cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle during the day, and fire was inside the cloud at night. All of the Israelites could see it as they traveled.

Christ Connection: God told the people of Israel to build a tabernacle where God would meet with His people. God wants to be with us. As part of His plan to save people from sin, God sent Jesus to earth to "tabernacle," or live with us.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Bring an offering:

Invite children to bring you the items they chose from the materials bin during "Introduce the Story" at the appropriate moment in the Bible story. You may also choose two children to act as Bezalel and Oholiab, receiving the offerings and trying to build with them.

• Listen for it:

Guide preschoolers to listen for the word "tabernacle." Every time they hear "tabernacle," lead preschoolers to put their hands over their heads, shaped like a roof.