**Large Group September 24**

**Bible Teaching:** Tabernacle

**Bible Passage:** Exodus 25-27; 40

**Bible Teaching Summary**

God gave Moses commandments for His people to follow. He also gave Moses detailed instructions for building a tabernacle, a place of worship where His presence could dwell. The people gave items and used their skills to create the tabernacle. The outer court was a place for all Israelites to bring animals for the priests to sacrifice. The Holy Place was entered by priests and it was separated from the Holy of Holies by a veil. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year to seek forgiveness for the people. The tabernacle was a place for the people to receive forgiveness, but more importantly, a place for God to dwell with His people.

**brite\* Idea:** God dwells with us.

**Memory Verse: Lamentations 3:22**

*I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them.*

**Focus Verses: Exodus 29:46, James 5:4a**

**He Question: Where is God?**

God is everywhere, all the time. He isn't limited by space or time like we are. He isn't limited to a building. He chooses to be with His people all the time.

**We Question: Why does it matter that God is with us?**

We know that we are never alone. God is with us through every situation, giving us His strength, wisdom, and guidance. He loves us and is always with us.

**Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?**

**Leader Tips: Connecting to God**’**s Bigger Story**

Last week, we discussed the importance of recognizing context clues, and now we want to step back to look at the even broader context of the Bible as a whole. Each verse and passage is part of a united whole, the bigger story of who God is and His activity in the world. In the pages of Scripture, we learn about everything from God’s creation of the world and the fall of humanity to God’s faithful work to redeem us and invite us into relationship with Himself. Remind kids that the verses they memorize and the stories they learn are a piece of a greater whole, the story God has been writing from the beginning of time and that continues into eternity. This helps to reinforce God’s character and remind them of God’s plan. It highlights that they can trust God’s work in their lives and the world around them as well as hold hope for what God has in store.

**Navigating a Broken World: Loneliness**

Loneliness is pervasive in our culture, particularly following the pandemic. One survey reveals 79% of young adults indicated they felt lonely.[\*](https://newsroom.cigna.com/loneliness-epidemic-persists-post-pandemic-look) Some countries have even appointed government officials to remedy the issue. Our kids are growing up in a very lonely culture. Many spent a portion of the pandemic isolated from others and it has been a difficult recovery. Today kids will learn God desires to dwell with His people. They are never truly alone. You can help your group be a place where kids do not feel lonely. Be intentional to connect kids together. Watch for kids who tend to isolate and work to build relationships with them. Utilize the Belong activities to get to know kids and pay attention to things they share about themselves. Help kids feel known. Most importantly, emphasize God is always near to them, loving them, helping them, and dwelling with them.

\*https://newsroom.cigna.com/loneliness-epidemic-persists-post-pandemic-look#

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

 **Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: Video player*

**Find it in the Bible:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

God gave Moses laws for the people to follow as well as specific instructions for the tabernacle. The tabernacle would be a special tent where the people’s sin could be forgiven and He would dwell with them.

*Supplies Needed: Bible, printable page*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

**Kid’s Enter**

 Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

**Gather kids into their age groups**

 Do the “Belong” activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown **when groups are winding down with their “Belong” activity and gather them into the main teaching area**

**Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos**

Video: “Same God”

Video: “I Am Not Alone”

Offering

Theme Slide

**Ask all to sit, then teach through “Bible Teaching” section below**

**Welcome**

**Supplies:** None **Prep:** None

**Say:** To get us warmed up today, we are going to play a quick game of Simon Says. You know the rules. If I say “Simon Says!” then you follow the command. If I don’t say “Simon Says” you don’t.

*Lead kids through Simon Says, beginning with very simple instructions such as* “*Touch your ear” and then begin to use more complicated instructions such as:*

* *Wiggle your left fingers while jumping on your right foot and turn in two circles.*
* *Quack like a duck while patting your head while squatting and jump four times.*
* *Put your hands on your head then shoulders then head then knees then toes then shoulders.*

**Say:** Our instructions got very specific at the end! You had to really pay attention to follow along! In today’s true story from the Bible we will learn about some specific instructions God had for His people, but first let’s find out what is happening in the next episode of Out of Control!

**Intro Video**

*Play the Intro video, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Marcio was left alone without any help, but things turned around once the kids were able to work together.

**Ask:** Has there been a time in your life that you felt really alone? What was that like?

**Say:** It can be hard when we feel alone. Today our brite\* idea reminds us that we are never truly alone, God dwells with us.

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

Where is God?

Why does it matter that God is with us?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

**Find It in the Bible**

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God’s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**New Feature to help the kids learn the books of the Bible**

Say: Now before we find out where today’s Bible story comes from, we have a fun video to help us learn all the Bible books in order! Are ready?!! Here we go!!!

**Play 66 Books In The Bible Song video**

The video can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pXpdFgxlbg>

 or on our Brite page.

**Where is today**’**s Bible story?**

Today’s story is found in the book of Exodus. Exodus is the second book of the Old Testament.The Old Testament tells the story of God’s people before Jesus came and Exodus tells the story of God’s people after creation and the fall and after they have been freed from slavery in Egypt. Today’s story happens while the Israelites are in the wilderness, headed from Egypt to the land God has promised them.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Exodus. Then show them how to get to today*’*s Bible passage (Exodus 25-27, 40).*

**Bible Teaching: The Tabernacle**

**Bible Passage: Exodus 25-27; 40**

**Supplies:** Bible**,** printable page

**Instructions:** Use the printable page as a reference to draw a large version of the outline of the tabernacle on the board or on a large piece of paper. Cut apart the pieces and select kids to help you attach them when needed.

**Bible Teaching Script:**

**Say:** God had set His people free from Egypt and Moses was leading them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. One day, God gave Moses many laws for the people, including the Ten Commandments. God knew His people would never be able to keep all of the laws. They would sin and do wrong things.

**Say:** God gave Moses instructions for a new system where people who were specially set apart, called priests, could offer sacrifices to pay for people’s sins.

*Place the priest on the board.*

**Read Exodus 25:8-9 directly from the Bible,** *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.*

**Say:** The tabernacle would be a great tent where the Israelites would meet with God. He wanted a holy place where He could dwell with His people.

*Place the picture of the tabernacle on the board.*

**Say:** The Israelites gave gold, silver, bronze, yarns, fabrics, animal skins and more of their items to help build the tabernacle. They also used their gifts and talents to create the pieces exactly as God instructed them.

**Say:** The outside of the tabernacle was surrounded with a great fence with only one gate for an entrance. Every Israelite could enter the courtyard. There was a bronze basin where the priests would wash their hands and feet. The Israelites would bring an animal to the priest. They would confess their sins. The priest would kill the animal on a bronze altar in the courtyard. The animal would take the punishment for the people’s sin.

*Place the pictures of the basin and the bronze altar on your diagram in the outer courtyard.*

**Say:** The inside of the tabernacle was divided into two parts, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Only priests could enter the Holy Place. Inside was a golden lampstand that provided the only light in the tabernacle. There was also an altar for burning incense and a table of special bread that only the priests could eat.

*Place the altar of incense, table of showbread, and golden lampstand in the Holy Place.*

**Say:** A thick veil hung between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only at one time a year.

*Place the curtain in between Holy of Holies and Holy Place.*

**Say:** On the Day of Atonement he would go to ask God to forgive all of the sins for all of the people. Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant. This wooden box was covered in gold and held the stone tablets where God wrote the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna, and Moses’ brother’s staff. The mercy seat was on top of the Ark. It was a golden lid with golden cherubim, or angels, on each side. The mercy seat was God’s throne.

*Place Ark and mercy seat on the diagram.*

**Say:** The priest would shake the blood of a perfect lamb on the mercy seat, asking for the people’s forgiveness. He would have to do this every year.

**Say:** When the Israelites completed the tabernacle, the cloud covered the tent and the glory of the Lord filled the place. When the cloud moved, the people knew it was time to pack everything up and move as well. The people would pack up the tabernacle.

*Take all of the pieces off of the board.*

**Say:** And then set it up again when they reached their new location.

*Ask for a kid to volunteer to come and place the pieces back on the board in the right spot. Repeat as time allows.*

POINT TO JESUS

God desires to dwell with His people. The sacrifice system never truly took away people’s sins. The priests had to go back year after year. The whole tabernacle was a hint towards the Rescuer who God would one day send. Jesus was born and called “Immanuel” which means God with us. John 1:14 tells us Jesus became flesh and dwelled among us. When He died on the cross the veil tore in half, letting everyone know that God was forever accessible to His people. Jesus gave His own life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins once and for all.

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Watch the Bible Review Video.**

**Read the following questions. Kids can show their answer by doing the following motions: A - Jump B - Run in place C - Duck.**

1. What was the name of the great tent God instructed Moses to build?

1. Temple b. Mt. Sinai **c. Tabernacle**

*God gave specific instructions for how to build the tabernacle, which would be a place where God would dwell with His people and also where the priests could make sacrifices for the people*’*s sins.*

2. Where did the materials for the tabernacle come from?

1. **The Israelites gave them.** b. Moses took them from the people.

 c. They appeared on the ground each morning.

*The Israelites willingly contributed gold, silver, bronze, yarns, fabrics, animal skins and more of their own items to make the tabernacle, just as God had commanded them.*

3. Who could come into the outer court of the tabernacle?

1. Only the high priest b. Only the priests**c. all Israelites**

*Anyone could enter the outer court. The Israelites could bring animals for the priests to sacrifice in the outer court. Only priests could go in the Holy Place and only the High Priest could go in the Holy of Holies.*

4. What separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies?

1. A wall **b. A veil**  c. A giant dragon

*A thick curtain separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies one time a year. When Jesus died, the veil in the temple was torn in two, showing that everyone had access to God*’*s presence.*

5. When the tabernacle was finished, a cloud covered the tent and the tabernacle was filled with what?

1. **God**’**s glory** b. Manna c. Fire

*The whole purpose of the tabernacle was for God to dwell with His people. The system of priests and sacrifices allowed their sins to be forgiven. His glory filled the tabernacle. The cloud showed the people when to pack up and travel on.*

6. Where is God?

1. Only in the tabernacle b. No one knows

 **c. Everywhere all the time.**

*God isn't limited by space or time like we are. He isn't limited to a building. He chooses to be with His people all the time.*

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

The brite\* idea for the day is: God dwells with us.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. (Lamentations 3:22)

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**He Question: Where is God?**

God is everywhere, all the time. He isn't limited by space or time like we are. He isn't limited to a building. He chooses to be with His people all the time.

**We Question: Why does it matter that God is with us?**

We know that we are never alone. God is with us through every situation, giving us His strength, wisdom, and guidance. He loves us and is always with us.

**Prayer**

God, thank You for Your love and Your presence. Thank You that You are always with us, strengthening us and guiding us. Thank You for making a way for us to live forever with You.

**As time permits…**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

 Do the “Believing” activity with the 2 groups

 AND/OR

 *Do the “Becoming” activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE*