



Week 1 – Elementary
Additional Resources for Parents

ACTIVITY: Wandering Game

Are you ready for an adventure? This month, we will follow the epic stories of the Old Testament in the Bible – stories of God’s people in the wilderness. . . where they wandered for forty years! Let’s play a wilderness wandering game together.

INSTRUCTIONS: Ask the kids to line up behind a leader and follow them in a wandering path around the room/house/outside. The leader should occasionally complain about the long trip and encourage the kids to complain as well. Lead them back to the starting point before moving on to the next activity.

ACTIVITY: House of Cards

We wandered around like the Israelites did in the desert. Just imagine: for forty years, they walked around with all of their things, without a house to go home to, looking for the land God had promised them. Let’s use these cards to try to build a house.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Provide a deck of playing cards and challenge the kids to build a house together. If needed, demonstrate strategies for building. Provide tape or paper clips only if necessary.

QUESTION: Road Trip List

If you knew you had to wander for a very long time, let’s say 40 years! What would you bring with you? The people of God missed a lot of things while they were wandering in the desert. One of the things they missed the most was the feeling that God was with them.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 35:4-35

Materials for the Tabernacle

⁴Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ⁵From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an

offering of gold, silver and bronze; ⁶ blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ⁷ ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather^[a]; acacia wood; ⁸ olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; ⁹ and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

¹⁰ “All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded: ¹¹ the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; ¹² the ark with its poles and the atonement cover and the curtain that shields it; ¹³ the table with its poles and all its articles and the bread of the Presence; ¹⁴ the lampstand that is for light with its accessories, lamps and oil for the light; ¹⁵ the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to the tabernacle; ¹⁶ the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils; the bronze basin with its stand; ¹⁷ the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; ¹⁸ the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard, and their ropes; ¹⁹ the woven garments worn for ministering in the sanctuary—both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests.”

²⁰ Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, ²¹ and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. ²² All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. ²³ Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. ²⁴ Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. ²⁵ Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. ²⁶ And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. ²⁷ The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. ²⁸ They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹ All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

Bezalel and Oholiab

³⁰ Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³¹ and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— ³² to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ³³ to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. ³⁴ And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Give the children a plain piece of white paper and crayons/markers/colored pencils and tell them to draw a room in a home with windows.

When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they sometimes forgot God was there with them, so God gave a man named Moses instructions. God told Moses to have the Israelites gather fine materials to make a home for God so that God could travel with them. Of course God was with them wherever they were anyway! But this home for God would help the Israelites remember this.

This home was called a Tent of Meeting or Tabernacle. This is how God told them to

build it: (use paper and crayons/markers/colored pencils to draw as they are listening)

Make curtains of fine, twisted linen or yarns of **blue, purple,** and **deep red.**

Use **gold clasps** to hold the curtains together. Weave pictures of winged angels in the curtains. Join them together to make walls.

Then, make a tent around the curtains with **goat hair.**

Make frames from **acacia wood** and **silver bases.** Assemble the tabernacle exactly as I have told you at every place you stop to rest.

God's people built the tabernacle exactly as they were told and put it up each time they stopped during their journey in the wilderness, to remind them God was with them while they traveled.

REFLECTION: Wherever I Am

We know we can spend time with God wherever we are. We can carry something around with us like the Israelites did or we can use whatever we have with us to help us remember God. Hmm...what do we have here that we can use to spend time with God? Ah! Here are the cards we used to build the "house" earlier. We can use these as a reminder that God is always with us and we can talk to God anytime we want.

INSTRUCTIONS: Help each child choose four cards (one of each suit) from the deck of cards used earlier.

PRAYER: Prayer Cards

INSTRUCTIONS: Ask the kids to draw each card from their stack and pray according to the instructions below. Encourage them to use the cards to guide them in prayer whenever they want to spend time with God.

Hearts: Pray for someone you love.

Diamonds: Tell God how thankful you are for something special in your life.

Spades: Ask God for strength to do something you need to do.

Clubs: Tell God how sorry you are for something you've done that you shouldn't have.