



WEEK 1

AT HOME LESSON



BIG IDEA

I can spend time with God anywhere.

THE BIBLE

The Israelites Build the Tabernacle: Exodus 35:4-35;
(James 4:8a)

MUSIC | "God of Wonders"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) and encourage kids to sing and dance along with you.
- Sing Some Other Worship Songs Together As a Family

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. 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.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids whose movement is impaired by a physical disability, consider giving the group toy race cars to create wandering paths on the table in front of them or have them create "wandering" patterns in the air with ribbons or scarves.

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.



VIDEO | Epic, Week 1 – The Israelites Built the Tabernacle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch this week's Bible Story video with Pastor Robin and Mr. Harrison.

SCRIPTURE | Exodus 35:4-35

- (You can read Exodus 26-27 for a more detailed background for today's story.)
- 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:
 - 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.

BONUS VIDEO | The Tabernacle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) of a 3D model of the tabernacle.
- Here is how the tabernacle might have looked!

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 around our house that we can carry with us to remind us that God is with us?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find an object around your home that is small – like a cross, Bible bookmark, or something else! – that your child can carry with them to remind them that he/she can spend time with God anywhere!
- We can use this as a reminder that God is always with us and we can talk to God anytime we want.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Have an older kid share a story about how they spend time with God. Maybe they pray and talk to God, or they like to listen to music that celebrates God.

DISCUSSION

- **Where were the Israelites when they built the tabernacle?**
- **What were some of the materials they used to build the tabernacle?**



- Why did they build the tabernacle?
- Read James 4:8a. What can you do to come near to God?
- Where do you go to spend time with God?
- What are some things you can do to help you spend time with God?
- What do you do when you are spending time with God?

MEMORY VERSE | Hidden in Sand (1 Samuel 12:24 – NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ahead of time, lay [plastic tablecloths](#) on the floor and prepare shallow dishes (inexpensive [foil pans](#) work great for this!) filled with [sand](#). Write the memory verse on index cards (or use thematic cards like [these](#)!) with one word on each card. Let each kid find a card, then work together to put the words in order to make the memory verse complete.