

ALLEY LG – January 9th/10th

Bible Story: Extreme Makeover: Tabernacle Edition (Building the tabernacle) • *Exodus 28:1, 3; 31:1-11; 35: 21, 25, 34; 39:42-43*

Bottom Line: We can work together to get God's work done.

Memory Verse: "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do." Ecclesiastes 4:9, *NIRV*

Life App: Cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone.

LARGE GROUP LEADER: You will need to give 2 kids a couple of pretzel rods each before you start and ask them to bring them up when instructed during the lesson. You will ALSO need to give one child a can of frosting and one a jar of sprinkles to bring up when you call for them as well.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

Host enters dressed in mechanics bibs, wiping his hands with a rag. (Note: Host, if you are not a "gear head" and this is not a personal experience for you, you can tweak this to reference a friend or family member who is.)

CG: *High Gear Slide*

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everybody! So glad you made it today as we start a brand new month. I can't even begin to tell you how excited I am to kick this month into High Gear. We're gonna go faster, further, and be better together. See, I am a huge gear head. I absolutely love cars. Have you ever opened the hood of a car before? There is so much under there, it can be pretty overwhelming at first. It kind of looks like somebody just dumped a bunch of random parts under there. But it is amazing how all of those parts and gears and belts work together to make the car run. It's kind of like our Life App for this month.

CG: *Cooperation Slide*

"Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone. So to get things started this month, we're going to have a little car race. Now, I wanted to bring some sweet hot-rods in here and have a race, but for some reason that idea didn't fly. So we'll do the next best thing. But first, I need some volunteers.

Choose several volunteers per group to race. Consider having a Small Group Leader supervise.

"Here's the game: Each group will get a pile of track. As a group, your goal is to be the first to get your car from the start line to the finish line. Once you send the car, you may not touch it. If it doesn't make it, you will have to bring the car back to the start and make adjustments to your track. This will take a lot of cooperation, so make sure you listen to others in your group!

Give each group their supplies and get them set.

“Ready to race? Get set ... GO!

SFX: *Play fun music during the game.*

“And we have a winner! Way to work together! All our groups showed great cooperation to complete the task. In today’s story, we are going to look at how the Israelites had to work together to accomplish an even bigger task.”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “All month long we’re looking at cooperation! What is that? Say this with me.

CG: *Cooperation Slide*

STORYTELLER and KIDS: “Cooperation is working together to do more than you can do alone.”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right! The Bible tells us a TON about how people worked together to do some amazing things for God. We’re going to kick off the month with a Bible story from way back in the Old Testament, when the nation of Israel was just getting started. First, God spoke with a man named Abraham and promised to give him lots of kids and grandkids. God promised to make those kids and grandkids His special people, who He would bless and then use to bless the entire world. That’s a big plan! But God was committed to it.

“After many years, all of those kids and grandkids turned into a huge nation—the nation of Israel. It turned out that the nation of Israel found themselves as slaves in Egypt, but God had a plan. God called a man named Moses to rescue them. God did some incredible things and Moses led God’s people out of Egypt. Even Egypt’s king, the mighty Pharaoh, could not stop God’s plan to bless the world through Israel! After delivering His people out of Egypt, God led the Israelites through the desert to Mount Sinai, where He explained to Israel what it meant to be His special people. That’s where He gave the 10 Commandments and made a promise to the Israelites to always be their God, and they promised that they would always follow Him.

“Now that God had begun this special relationship with His people, it would only make sense that God would now want to come and live with them! But how would God live among His people? He is holy and, well, they weren’t. But God had it all figured out. He instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle in the desert. A tabernacle is like a huge portable tent that could be taken down and set up as the people moved from place to place. It was an important place set apart for God to meet with His people. Pretty cool, right?”

GOD GIVES INSTRUCTIONS

STORYTELLER: “Now God didn’t leave it up to the Israelites to decide what they would build. No, in fact, God was VERY specific about how to build the tabernacle—from the exact size to the building materials and so on. And the construction of the tabernacle required many different people with many different talents.

“We thought it would be cool to build the tabernacle here in this room, but it turns out, well, it would be rather expensive, since parts of it were made of gold. Plus, it was kinda big and that would take us a

while to recreate. But we had an idea. We're going to build a model of the tabernacle using a pretty easily accessible building material—food! First, I need some construction workers.

Storyteller chooses several construction worker volunteers and puts a hard hat on each.

"There are a lot of different construction tasks that need to take place, so we will need someone to oversee the whole process, kind of like a foreman. Hmm ... back then it was Moses."

Choose a SGL to be Moses. Call them up and put the Moses costume on them.

STORYTELLER: "Do not fear, Moses is here! We need you to oversee the construction of the tabernacle."

STORYTELLER: "I just enlisted all this construction help. Let's get started!"

STORYTELLER GIVE MOSES THE "TABERNACLE INSTRUCTIONS SHEET – THIS WILL BE SUPPLIED FOR YOU- SO MOSES CAN HELP THEM WHILE YOU GO ON

"While they start building, let me give a quick explanation about what they are building. The tabernacle had three main parts: the courtyard, the Holy place, and the Holy of Holies. In your Bibles, this might be referred to as Holy Room and Most Holy Room, but today we're going to stick with Holy place and Holy of Holies to describe the rooms.

CG: Tabernacle Diagram

"The courtyard is where Israelites would come to meet the priests and bring their sacrifices and offerings. The Holy Place is where only priests could go, and they would perform various tasks there. Finally, there is the Holy of Holies, where God Himself would live among His people. God is present everywhere, but in the Holy of Holies He lived among them in a very special way. That's the setup of the tabernacle. Speaking of the tabernacle ... *(to Host)* how's it going over there?"

HOST: "Great, but it appears we are not going to have enough posts for the fence."

STORYTELLER: "Oh, no. *(To audience)* Does anyone happen to have any extra pretzel rods they could offer to the workers?"

Those who were given the extra pretzel rods ahead of time should bring them forward at this time.

"That's just great! Thank you so much. They couldn't build this without your help!"

THE SKILLED LABORERS

STORYTELLER: “When God instructed His people to build Him a tabernacle, He didn’t just expect them to figure it out. As we said, He gave detailed plans. But what is also important to know is that God also gave different skills to the workers. Check out what God says about this one worker named Bezalel. *(Read directly from Exodus 31:2-5)* ‘He said, “I have chosen Bezalel, the son of Uri. Uri is the son of Hur. Bezalel is from the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God. I have filled Bezalel with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skill. He can make beautiful patterns in gold, silver and bronze. He can cut and set stones. He can work with wood. In fact, he can work in all kinds of crafts.’ *(NirV)*

“God gave Bezalel all sorts of skills to help build the tabernacle. And he wasn’t the only one. There were builders, stone workers, those who could sew fabric for the priests’ clothing, and more. Speaking of workers, it looks like we are ready for some more volunteers. We need to decorate the tabernacle. I’m going to need some artists.

Storyteller chooses several volunteers to be artists and puts a beret on each. If the construction workers are still building they can stay up. Otherwise they can be seated.

“Moses, here are some artists. Can you please instruct them?”

HOST: “Certainly!”

Moses guides the volunteers by reading the “Artist instructions” sheet (This will also be provided for you)

STORYTELLER: “Now many who couldn’t help with the construction helped by bringing offerings. Is there anybody who has an offering for the tabernacle?”

Those who were given frosting and food decorations ahead of time should bring them up now.

“This is amazing. Thanks so much!”

EVERYBODY WORKED TOGETHER

STORYTELLER: “Well, the people continued to work together to build the tabernacle just the way that God had instructed. Each person used the skills God had given him or her to play their part. *(Point to volunteers.)* Just look at the teamwork over there.”

HOST: “Ladies and gentlemen, the tabernacle is officially complete!”

Everybody applauds. Storyteller walks over to the tabernacle.

STORYTELLER: “What an amazing job! You guys did it! Moses, what do you think?”

Moses and Volunteers can be seated.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Just like these volunteers, the Israelites had to work together to complete their tasks. And they did so exactly as they had been instructed. Look what it says here. *(Read directly from Exodus 39:42-43)* ‘The Israelites had done all the work just as the Lord had commanded Moses. Moses looked over the work carefully. He saw that the workers had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses gave them his blessing.’ *(NirV)*

“The tabernacle was complete. With God’s guidance, His people had created an amazing place to draw closer to Him. Together, they had done far more than a single one of them could have done alone.

“After the completion of the tabernacle, there was only one thing left. God moved in! His very presence and glory filled the tabernacle, and God lived among His people in a very real way. I think that is pretty amazing. And it all happened because the people were willing to listen to God and work together. That is cooperation!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“It’s like our Bottom Line for today: **[Bottom Line] We can work together to get God’s work done.**”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Let’s pray. God, thank You that You want to be near to Your people. We know this shows just how much You love us. Help us to remember that even though working together may not always be easy, we can accomplish Your work when we are willing to cooperate. And that’s exactly what we want to do, so please equip us for Your work, just like You equipped the workers of the tabernacle. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss to Small Groups