

3-6 | August 30

Bible Story: Gifted Together (Building the Tabernacle) • *Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9; 28:1-3; 31:1-11; 35:21, 25, 34; 39:42-43*

Bottom Line: God grows His gifts in me to build His kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What gifts can you use to build God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: *How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* • Psalm 139:14 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ 1 Beach ball
- ☐ 2 Pool noodles

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use the floor tape to mark a start line and a finish line on opposite sides of the room.
- Inflate the beach ball.

During the Activity:

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Split the kids into two groups and have each group line up behind the start line.
- Ask for two kids to volunteer to go first.
- Give each volunteer a pool noodle, and place the beach ball on the floor between them.
- Explain the challenge: They must work together to carry the beach ball from the start line to the finish line using only their pool noodles. They cannot touch the ball with their hands.
- Encourage the rest of the group to cheer them on.
- If they drop the ball, they can pick it up with their pool noodles and keep going.
- Ask for two more volunteers, and let them try.
- Continue until everyone who wants a turn has had one.

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! That was tricky, but you worked together to get the job done! It would have been impossible for one person to do that alone. In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear about a really big project that God's people had to do. It was so big, they all had to work together to build it. Let's go find out what it was!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Allow a kid to be the "Finish Line Judge" who says when the ball has crossed the line.

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today's video lesson.

3. Pray

"Let's open up today in prayer. God, thank You for giving each of us special gifts. Thank You for making us all different. Help us to see the gifts You have put inside us, and show us how to use them to love others to point to Your kingdom. Help us remember that **[Bottom Line] God grows His gifts in me to build His kingdom.** We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

4. Gifted Together – Building the Tabernacle

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Gifted Together – Building the Tabernacle" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Washable ink pads (assorted colors)
- ☐ Hand wipes

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print one "Gifted Together – Building the Tabernacle" Activity Page on cardstock for each child.
- Set out crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, and washable ink pads.
- Place hand wipes nearby for easy cleanup.

During the Activity:

- Open your Bible to Exodus 25 and flip through Exodus 39 to show the kids where today's Bible Story is found.
- Share these key points:
 - While Moses was on Mount Sinai, God told His people to build a special place called the tabernacle where He would dwell among them.

- God didn't ask just one person to do all the work. He gave different people different gifts and talents so everyone could help.
- Some people worked with gold, silver, and bronze. Others were skilled with wood, fabric, sewing, embroidery, or craftsmanship. Everyone's gifts were important.
- Give each child a "Gifted Together – Building the Tabernacle" Activity Page.
- Make sure each child writes his/her name on the paper.
- Invite the kids to color the tabernacle, doors, and gift bricks.
- Encourage the kids to think about gifts God has given them (examples: helping, encouraging, singing, drawing, building, sharing, praying, or showing kindness).
- Have each child write one gift or talent on each of the three gift bricks.
- Help the kids cut out the doors and gift bricks.
- Show them how to glue the doors onto the appropriate sides of the tabernacle doorway.
- Have the kids glue the three gift bricks to the bottom right corner of their page.
- Once everyone has finished, explain that the large heart represents God's people working together.
- Invite the children to take turns dipping one finger into a washable ink pad and stamping a fingerprint inside each classmate's heart. Continue until every child's heart is filled with fingerprints from their friends.
- Point out that every fingerprint is different, just like every person God created; and so are their giftings!

What You Say:

"Look at all of these fingerprints inside your heart! None of them are exactly the same. God made each one of us unique, and He gives each of us different gifts and abilities. In today's Bible Story, no one person built the tabernacle alone. God gave different people different talents, and when everyone worked together, they created something beautiful for Him.

Just like the fingerprints filling your heart, God's family is strongest when everyone contributes. Your gifts may not be the same as someone else's, and that's exactly how God designed it! Whether you're good at helping, encouraging, creating, leading, praying, serving others, or showing kindness, God can use your gifts to build His Kingdom. God has given each of us special gifts, and when we use them together, we can do amazing things for Him!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- For kids who don't want to touch the ink, offer alternatives like a small stamp to stamp inside the heart.
- Encourage kids who have trouble thinking of gifts by suggesting everyday examples like helping clean up, sharing, listening well, praying, or making others feel welcome.
- Keep hand wipes nearby so children can clean their fingers before moving on to the next activity.

5. Tabernacle Trek

What You Need:

- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ Balloons

EveryChild Supplies:

- ☐ *Beach balls instead of balloons*

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Create a start line and a finish line on opposite sides of your group space with tape.

During the Activity:

- Divide your group into one or two large teams.
- Instruct each team to line up single file behind the start line.
- Give each team enough balloons so they can place one between each kid in line (one less than the number of kids on the team).
- Demonstrate how the first two kids will hold a balloon between them (chest to back) without using their hands. Have the rest of the team do the same, creating a long “caterpillar.”
- Explain the challenge: On “Go!”, the team must work together to walk like a caterpillar from the start line to the finish line without dropping any balloons.
- Share the rules:
 - No hands allowed! You can only hold the balloons by pressing them between each other.
 - If a balloon drops, the entire caterpillar must stop, work together to put it back in place, and then continue.
- Encourage the kids to talk to each other and move at the same speed.
- Cheer them on as they trek across the room!

What You Say:

“Awesome job, everyone! That was tricky, wasn’t it? What did you have to do to keep the balloons from falling? (*Invite responses: talk to each other, walk slowly, stay close together*) You had to cooperate! This is a great picture of what it was like for God’s people to build the tabernacle. God gave some people the gift of working with metal, some the gift of sewing, and some the gift of working with wood. Some people even had the metal, the fabric, and the wood to contribute to the project! Everyone used what God had given them, and they all carefully worked together to build a special place for God.

“Just like God’s people had the assignment of building the tabernacle, you have the assignment of showing God’s good heart and pointing to His kingdom. What you have—things like your abilities, your time, and your possessions—are gifts from God that He wants you to use. He’s given you what you have for exactly this time! When you use what God has given you together

with what He has given other people, you can do even more amazing things for God. Remember that **[Bottom Line]** God grows His gifts in me to build His kingdom.”

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you were part of a team effort for God. For example, you can share something like: “One time at church, we had to get a room ready for a big party. I’m not very good at decorating, but I am good at organizing! So my friends who are good at art made all the decorations, and I helped figure out where everything should go. We used our different gifts together to get the job done, and it was so much better than if I had tried to do it all by myself!”)

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- For a kid with mobility challenges or who is uncomfortable with close physical contact, they can be the “Caterpillar Guide.” Their job is to walk alongside the caterpillar and give directions, such as: “Okay, team, slow down a little!” or “You’re doing great!”
- If you have kids who are sensitive to the sound of balloons popping, you can use soft beach balls instead.