

PARENT TAKE-HOME SHEET

Equipping families to continue the conversation at home

WEEK 19 | MAY 10, 2026 | GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE: THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 25 to 40

THIS WEEK'S LESSON AT A GLANCE

Lesson Title:	God Dwells With His People: The Tabernacle
Bible Passage:	Exodus 25 to 40
Big Idea:	God designed a way to live with His people, and that way was always pointing to Jesus.
Remember This:	God has always wanted to be near His people. In the wilderness He moved into a special tent called the tabernacle right in the middle of their camp. Every part of that tent pointed forward to Jesus, who came to be God with us in person.

MEMORY VERSE**"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."****Exodus 25:8**

What it means:	God is telling Moses: I want to live with you, not above you, not far away, but right in the middle of you. This is not a rule. It is an invitation from a God who loves His people and wants to be near them.
Practice at home:	Break it into two parts: (1) 'Then have them make a sanctuary for me' / (2) 'and I will dwell among them. Exodus 25:8.' Say part one at breakfast. Say the whole verse at bedtime.
Ask your child:	What does it mean that God said He would dwell among His people?
Guide toward:	God wanted to live with them, right in the middle of their camp. He did not want to stay far away.
Parent tip:	This verse is the key to understanding Jesus. The same God who moved into a tent in the wilderness later moved into a human body. John 1:14 says Jesus 'tabernacled' among us. Same word. Same God. Same love.

TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

Your child has been walking through the Bible chronologically all year. Today we arrived at one of the most important passages in the entire Old Testament. After God rescued His people from Egypt and gave them the Ten Commandments, He did something remarkable: He told them to build Him a home. Not a palace. A tent, one they could carry through the wilderness, with God living right in the middle of their camp.

This tent was called the tabernacle. It had three sections, each representing greater nearness to God: the outer court where any Israelite could come, the Holy Place where only priests could enter, and the Most Holy Place where only the High Priest could go, once a year. A thick curtain called the veil separated the Most Holy Place from everything else. Inside was the Ark of the Covenant, a gold-covered chest holding God's commandments, with a golden lid called the mercy seat. This is where God promised to meet with His people.

When the tabernacle was finished and built exactly as God commanded, God's glory filled it so completely that Moses could not even enter. God had moved in. Every detail of that tent, the furniture, the curtain, the sacrifices, the priest, was a picture pointing forward to Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom. God Himself opened the way for anyone to come close through Jesus.

WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

Many children grow up thinking of God as distant, hard to reach, or interested only in whether they behave well. This lesson corrects all of that. The tabernacle is God's announcement that He wants to be near. He designed the system. He equipped the workers. He moved in. He has always been the One pursuing His people, not waiting for them to earn their way to Him.

This also gives children a key that unlocks much of the rest of the Bible. When they read about Jesus as the Lamb of God, the bread of life, the light of the world, the way to the Father, and the great High Priest, they will understand what those words mean because they saw the pictures first in the tabernacle.

A simple way to explain it to your child:

"God always wanted to be close to His people. He built a special tent so He could live right in their camp. Then one day He came Himself, as Jesus. Jesus is the real thing the tent was always pointing to."

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND THE TABERNACLE

What it was:	A portable tent that God commanded His people to build in the wilderness so He could live among them. It had three areas of increasing holiness.
Why it mattered:	It showed that God is holy (perfectly pure and good) and that sinful people need a way to come near Him. God provided that way Himself, through the sacrifices and the priesthood.
What to emphasize:	Every piece of furniture pointed to Jesus. The lampstand points to Jesus as the light of the world. The bread points to Jesus as the bread of life. The mercy seat points to Jesus as the one who covers our sin. The curtain that tore points to Jesus opening the way to God.
What to avoid:	Do not present the tabernacle as just an ancient religious building. It was a living, physical picture of the Gospel painted in wood and gold centuries before Jesus was born.
Key word: Holy	Holy means set apart, perfectly good and pure, without any sin or darkness. God is perfectly holy. The tabernacle was designed to help sinful people understand what that means and how they could come near to a God like that.

DEFENDING THE TRUTH AT HOME

Question:	"Why does the Bible spend so much time talking about a tent? It sounds boring and made up."
Answer:	Real events have real details. The tabernacle instructions include specific measurements, named craftsmen, exact materials, and numbered tribes. That is the language of something that actually happened. Invented religion tends to be vague. God gives specifics.
Read together:	Hebrews 9:1 to 5 describes the tabernacle furniture as settled history. John 1:14 uses the tabernacle language to describe Jesus coming in human form.
Explanation:	The details in Exodus are not boring. Once you see what each piece of furniture points to in Jesus, the tabernacle becomes one of the most exciting parts of the whole Old Testament. Every measurement, every color, every piece of furniture was telling the story of what God was going to do in Jesus.
Say kindly:	"That is a really good question. All those details are clues. Every single piece of furniture was a picture of Jesus. Want me to show you how?"

TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

Use one or two of these questions during dinner, bedtime, or in the car. You do not have to ask all of them at once.

Q: What is a tabernacle?	A: A special tent God told His people to build so He could live right in the middle of their camp.
Q: What does our memory verse say God wanted to do? (Exodus 25:8)	A: God said He would dwell among His people. He wanted to live with them.
Q: What was behind the thick curtain in the tabernacle, and why couldn't everyone go in?	A: The Most Holy Place, where God's presence was most fully known. Only the High Priest could enter once a year because God is holy and sin creates a real distance between us and God.
Q: What happened to the curtain when Jesus died?	A: God tore it from top to bottom. The way to God was opened for everyone who comes through Jesus.
Q: How is Jesus like the tabernacle?	A: Jesus came to dwell among us in a human body. He is the true sacrifice, the true priest, and the one who opens the way to God.
Q: Because of Jesus, can we talk to God anytime?	A: Yes. The curtain is torn. Jesus opened the way. We can come to God any time, any day.

TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

THE TABERNACLE MAP

This week, take a piece of paper and draw the tabernacle together as a family. Draw the three sections: outer court, Holy Place, Most Holy Place. Put the furniture in each section. Then beside each piece, write or say what it points to in Jesus.

Lampstand: Jesus is the light of the world. | Bread: Jesus is the bread of life. | Incense altar: Jesus hears our prayers. | Mercy seat: Jesus covers our sin. | Curtain: Jesus opened the way.

Keep the drawing on the refrigerator this week. When you walk by it, say the memory verse together.

Say this to reinforce it: "Every part of this tent was God's way of saying: one day, I am coming Myself. And He did. His name is Jesus."

WHEN YOUR CHILD FEELS FAR FROM GOD THIS WEEK

Children often feel like God is far away, especially after they have done something wrong, when they are struggling, or when their prayers seem to go unanswered. This week's lesson speaks directly into those moments.

The situation:	Your child says "I feel like God doesn't hear me" or "I don't think God cares about me" or they come to you with guilt after doing something wrong.
What to say:	"Do you remember what we learned about the tabernacle? God went out of His way to move right into the middle of His people's camp. He did not stay far away. And when Jesus died on the cross, God tore that curtain wide open so nothing has to stand between you and Him. He hears you. He is near."
Gospel link:	"Jesus made the way. Not your good behavior. Not your perfect prayers. Jesus. So you can come to God right now, exactly as you are, and He will not turn you away."
Truth and grace:	Do not skip the truth that sin is real and that it matters. But never leave a child there. Always walk them from the honest weight of sin to the open door of grace that Jesus made.

PRAYER TO PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You that You are not a God who stays far away.

Thank You for building a way for Your people to come close to You in the wilderness. Thank You even more for sending Jesus to be the true tabernacle, to dwell among us, to die for our sins, and to open the way to You forever.

Help us remember this week that because of Jesus, we can talk to You any time. When we are scared, come close. When we have done something wrong, come close. When we are happy, come close.

Holy Spirit, help our family grow in understanding and in love for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

You do not need a theology degree to disciple your child. You just need to show up with this sheet, ask one question, and be willing to say "I am still learning too, but let me tell you what I know." That honesty is one of the most powerful things a parent can give a child.

The tabernacle is a passage that rewards every return visit. The more your family understands it, the more the Gospels, Hebrews, and Revelation will open up. Today you planted a seed. God is faithful to grow what He plants.

And here is the most important thing to carry into your week: God still wants to dwell among His people. He still wants to be near your family. The curtain is torn. The way is open. You can bring your whole family through that open door any time you want. Jesus made sure of it.
