

# A House for God

## Bible Verse

"I'll take you as my people, and I'll be your God." (Exodus 6:7)

## Did You Know?

**T**he Israelites spent forty years wandering in the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula. During this time, following God's directions, the Israelites built the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle had all of the equipment of a permanent temple, but it was designed to be mobile. The Tabernacle served as a place the Israelites could go and worship God. It also served as a visible reminder of God's constant presence with them as they traveled.

The instructions for building the Tabernacle are presented in Exodus in elaborate detail. Everything in the Tabernacle was described, as well as the clothes the priests were to wear. The building of the Tabernacle was truly a community effort. God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to bring offerings of materials to make the Tabernacle. Moses gave the people a list of materials and asked them to bring what they could as an offering. The people responded wholeheartedly. It was not only material goods that were needed for this project. People used their talents and skills to make things for the Tabernacle and to teach others to make things as well. The Israelites gave so generously that at one point Moses had to tell them to stop giving! If God is everywhere and always with us, why do we need to build a house for God? Help your children understand that God's house is not a physical shelter for God as our house is for us. God's house is a place the people of God can gather together to worship and praise God. Once completed, Moses set up the Tabernacle in the center of the Israelites' camp. It was a place for the people to meet together, learn about God, and worship. Today our church community also gathers to learn about God and worship together. The place we meet serves as a visual reminder for us of God's presence, just as the Tabernacle reminded the Israelites God was with them.

## Bible Story

Exodus 25–31:15;  
35:4–40:38

## Anchor Point

God cares for all people.


## My Plan

- Assemble the Crew
- God's House
- Find the Words
- Build a House for God
- Measure It
- A House for God
- Where Is God?
- Set Up a Worship Center
- Worship

 Everyone

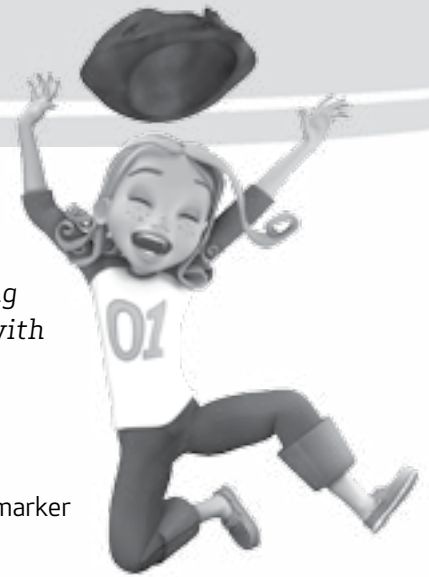
 Readers

 Nonreaders

 Requires preparation.

## Jump In!

*The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.*




### ASSEMBLE THE CREW

**Supplies:** Attendance Chart, offering basket, stickers and marker

- Display the Attendance Chart.
- Greet the children as they arrive.
- Allow each child to add a sticker or mark his or her name on the attendance chart.
- Show the children where to place any offerings.
- Play music as the children arrive.

### GOD'S HOUSE

**Supplies:** Reproducible A, crayons


-  Photocopy "God's House" (Reproducible A) for each younger child.
  - Give each younger child a copy of "God's House."

**SAY:** This picture shows the Tabernacle the Israelites built. They used purple, blue, and red cloth to make the curtains. They also used wood and gold and silver.

- Encourage each child to color the picture.

### FIND THE WORDS

**Supplies:** Reproducible B, pencils

-  Photocopy "Offerings for the Tabernacle" (Reproducible B) for each older child.
  - Give each older child a copy of "Offerings for the Tabernacle" and a pencil.
  - Encourage each child to find the words in the puzzle.

### BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD

**Supplies:** wooden or plastic building blocks


- Encourage the children to use the blocks and work together to build a house for God.
- Invite the children to tell you about their creation.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we will hear about the Israelites building a house for God.

**ASK:** How do you think they built their house for God? What do you think they used to build it?

## MEASURE IT

**Supplies: Reproducible C**, measuring tape, pencils

 Photocopy "How Big Was the Tabernacle?" (Reproducible C) for each older child.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we will hear about the Israelites building a special house for God called a Tabernacle.

- Give each child a copy of "How Big Was the Tabernacle?"
- Encourage the children to read the information about the Tabernacle.
- Let the children use the tape measure to measure the size of your classroom and record the measurements.
- Have the children compare the size of your classroom to the size of the inner tent and the outer courtyard of the Tabernacle.

## Dive Deeper

### A HOUSE FOR GOD

**Supplies: Reproducible E, Tabernacle Poster**

 Photocopy "A House for God" (Reproducible E) for each child to take home.

Arrange to have your class hear today's Bible story in the sanctuary. If the sanctuary is unavailable during your class time, take pictures of the sanctuary for use during this activity.

- Have the class visit the sanctuary.

**ASK: What do we use this room for? What makes this room special?** (It is special because it has been designated as a place for God's people to worship together.)

- Have the children notice the different areas of the sanctuary such as the altar, the place the congregation sits, and so forth.
- Discuss what each area of the sanctuary is used for.
- Have the children sit down where the congregation sits when you worship together.
- Read the Bible story from "A House for God."
- Show the children the Tabernacle Poster. Have the children notice the outer courtyard and the inner tent.

**ASK: Does the place we worship resemble the Tabernacle? How is it different? Are there similarities?**

**SAY:** The Tabernacle provided a place for the Israelites to gather and worship God together. Our church is a place for us to gather and worship God.

- Return to your classroom.



## Grow Stronger

### WHERE IS GOD?

**Supplies:** "Where is God?" Poster

 Display the "Where Is God? Poster".

**SAY:** The Israelites worked together to build a special house for God. We sometimes refer to our church as God's house.

**ASK:** Does God live only in our church? (no)

- Show the children the "Where Is God? Poster."
- Discuss the pictures on the poster using the following questions:  
Which of these pictures shows a place that God is present?  
How can you tell God is present in each place?  
Is there any place we can go that God is not present?

**SAY:** God is wherever we are. God is always with us.


**ASK:** If God is always with us, why do we build churches?

- Allow children to share their thoughts and ideas.

**SAY:** We can go anywhere and know God is with us. Our church provides us a special place to gather together as a community, learn about God, and worship God. Our church also reminds us God is present with us just as the Tabernacle reminded the Israelites God was with them

### SET UP A WORSHIP CENTER

**Supplies:** Reproducible F, small table, a cloth to cover the table, a Bible, a piece of ribbon about 12 inches long, a cross, an LED candle, a basket

 Make a copy of "Instructions for a Worship Center" (Reproducible F).

Place the small table and the other items you have collected together in one place.

**SAY:** Today you are going to work together to set up a worship center for our classroom. I have instructions you will need to follow to set up the worship center.

- Give the children a copy of "Instructions for a Worship Center."
- Have the children work together to follow the instructions. Encourage older children to read the instructions for the class.
- When the children have finished following the instructions, congratulate them on doing a good job of working together.

**SAY:** We will use this worship center at the end of class today. In our Bible story today, we will hear about the Israelites following God's instructions to set up a special place to worship.

#### TIP


If you already have a worship center in your classroom, take it apart and use the items on it for this activity.



# Worship

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

**Supplies:** Exodus 6:7 Bible Verse Poster, Exodus 6:7 Sign Language Poster, Reproducible G, worship center the children set up earlier

 Review the signs from the Sign Language Poster so you can teach them to the children.

Display the Exodus 6:7 Bible Verse Poster and Sign Language Poster in your worship area.

Make copies of "Talk About" (Reproducible G) for each of your children.

- Have the children gather near the worship center they set up earlier.

**SAY: The Israelites built the Tabernacle as a reminder that God was always with them, every step of the way.**

- Play familiar worship music and encourage children to sing and move along with the music.
- Show the children the Bible Verse Poster. Encourage readers to read the verse with you.

**SAY: The God of the Israelites is our God, too.**

- Teach children the Sign Language for the Bible verse. Encourage all children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

**SAY: This month we have been sharing our joys and concerns with each other for our prayer time. This week we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a good time to remember to thank God for our many blessings.**

- Invite children to share their joys and concerns, reminding them that sharing is always optional.

**PRAY: God, we thank you for the many joys and blessings in our lives. We thank you for being with us and hearing our concerns. Thank you for your presence with us wherever we go. Amen.**

Give each child a copy of the "Talk About" page (Reproducible G) to take home.

**SAY: Share the "Talk About" page with your parents when you go home. It has some information about today's lesson that you and your parents can share and discuss.**

# Answers

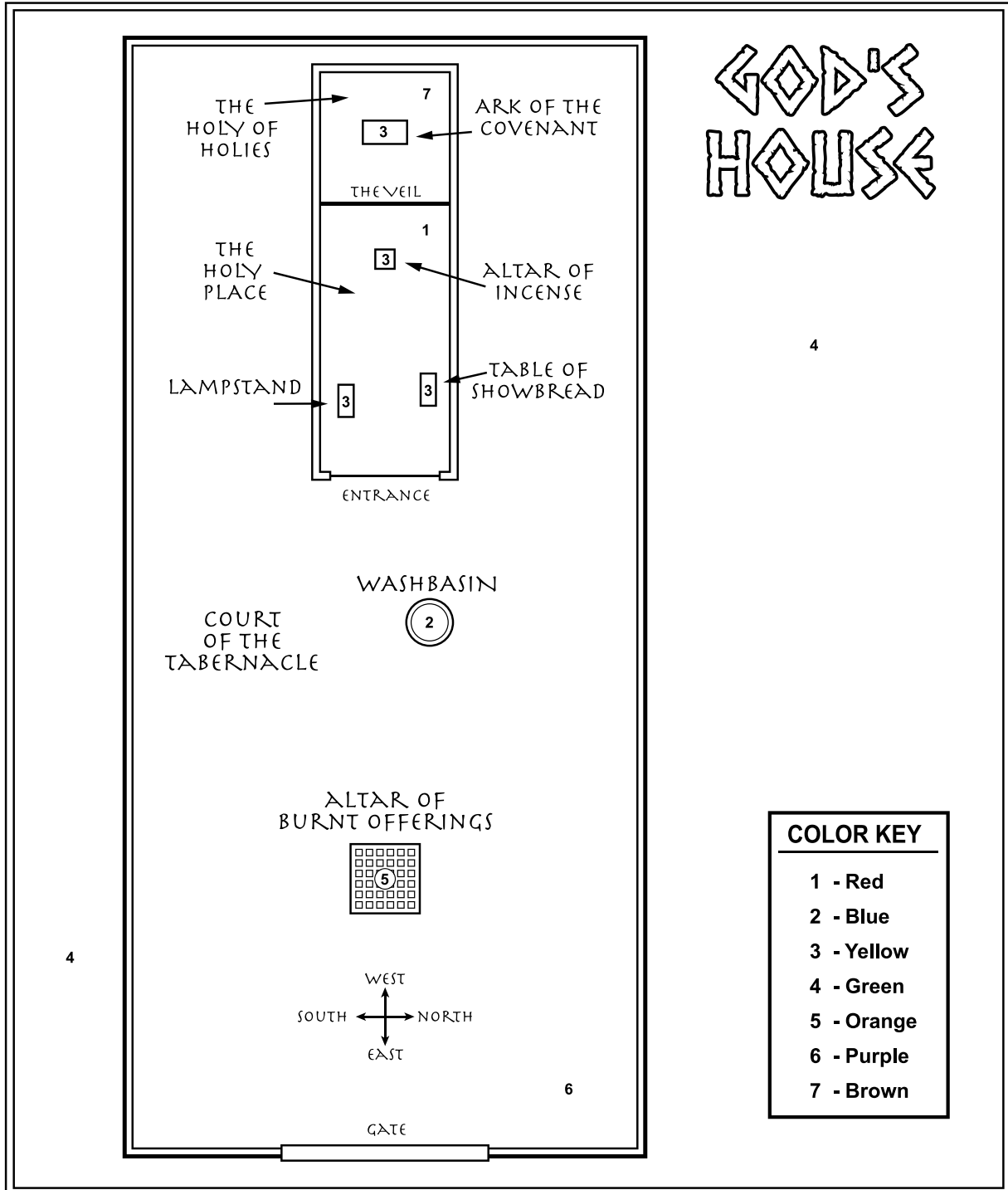
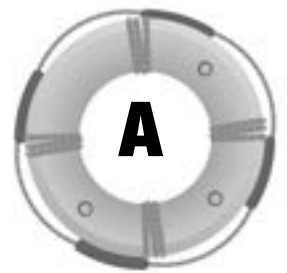
## REPRODUCIBLE B FIND THE WORDS



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# God's House

Did the Tabernacle the Israelites built for a place to worship in the wilderness look like your church?

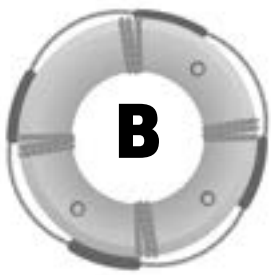


For Nonreaders

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# Offerings for the Tabernacle

Moses gave the Israelites a list of materials needed to build the Tabernacle and make the clothes for the priests. The Israelites offered their possessions to build God's House. The offerings the Israelites made are listed below. Find the words hidden in the puzzle.



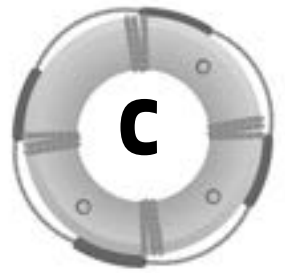
ACACIA WOOD  
BLUE YARN  
FINE LINEN  
GOATS HAIR  
OIL  
RAMS SKINS  
SILVER

BEADED LEATHER  
COPPER  
GEMSTONES  
GOLD  
PURPLE YARN  
RED YARN  
SPICES

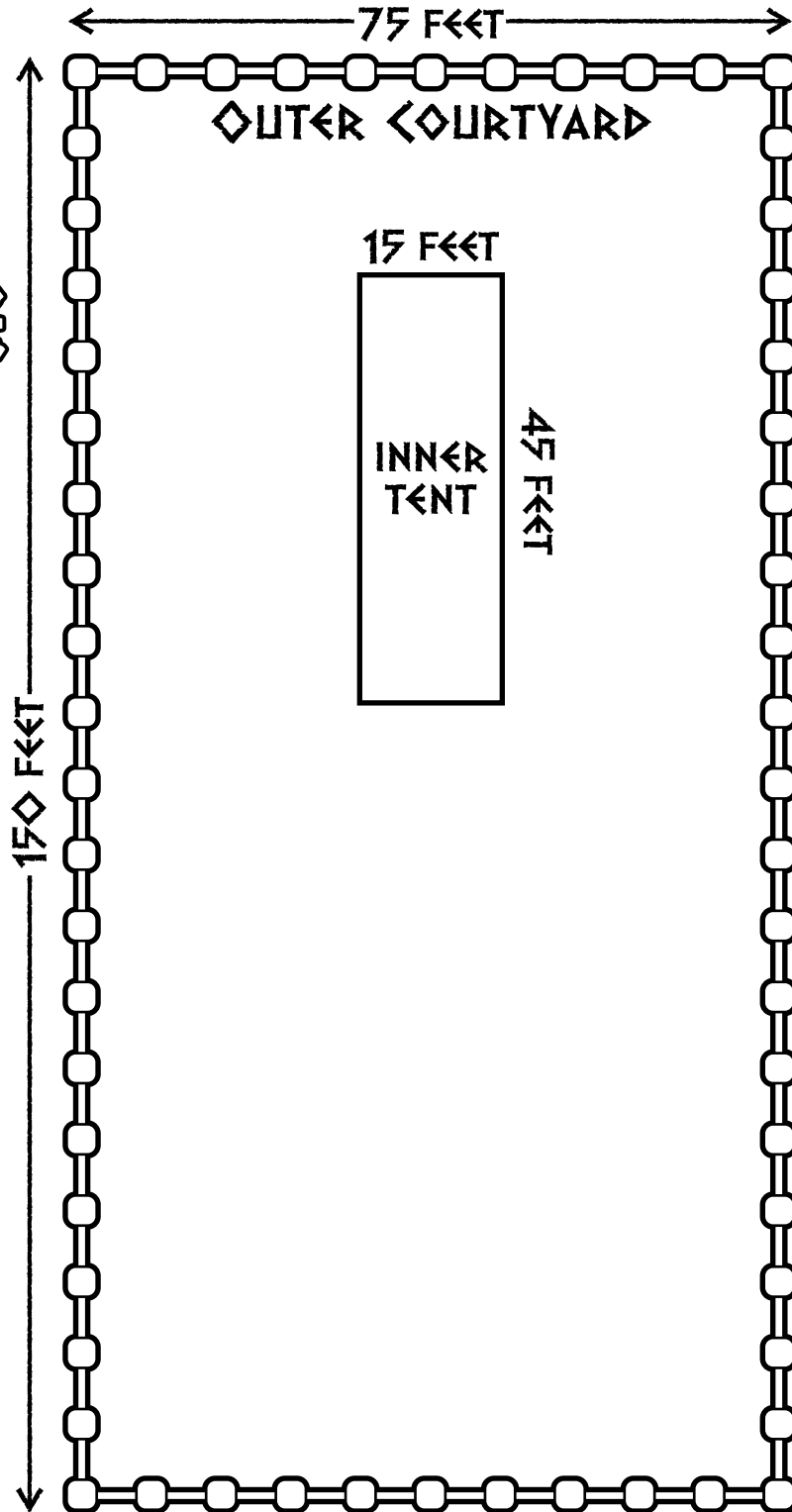
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O	D	G	N	G	N	F	N	R	A	Y	E	U	L	B
X	G	O	H	E	Y	P	M	N	W	H	N	B	Z	T
X	H	D	N	C	N	S	I	M	V	T	J	Y	W	L
B	Q	P	X	A	K	Y	N	O	R	R	V	C	U	D

# How Big Was the Tabernacle?

When the Israelites were living in the wilderness, God gave them instructions to build a Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was like a mobile sanctuary that they could take with them when they traveled. It had an outer courtyard that surrounded an inner tent. Only priests were allowed to enter the tent.



HOW BIG  
WAS THE  
TABERNACLE  
?

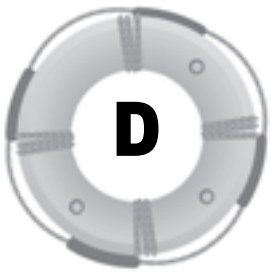


For Readers

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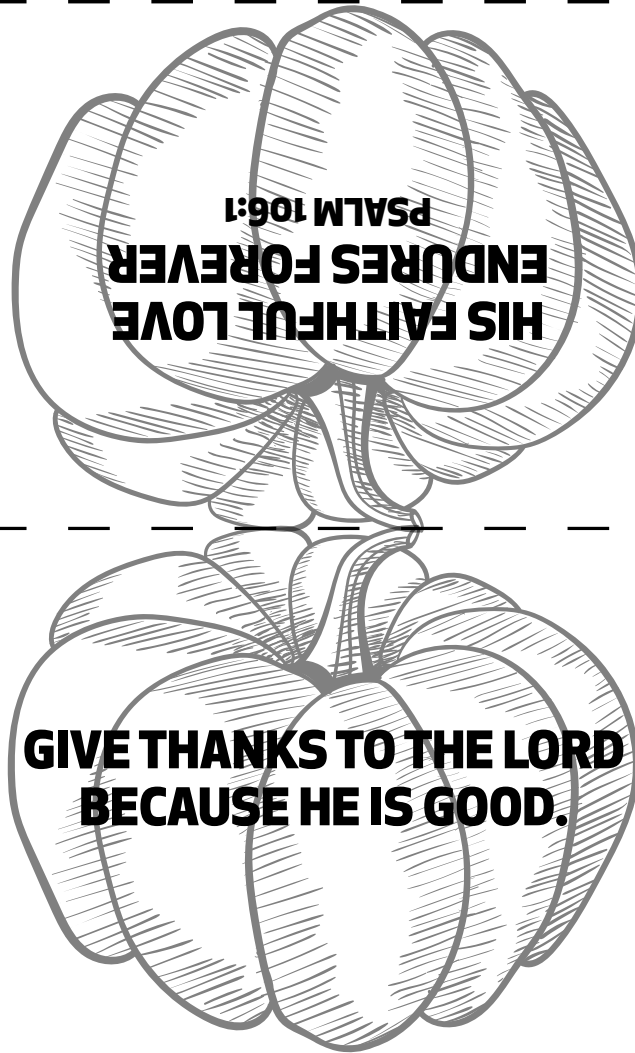
**DEEP  
BLUE**

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# Thanksgiving Table Decoration

NAME:



NAME:

For Everyone

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# A House for God



The Israelites were living in the wilderness. God had freed them from slavery in Egypt, but they had not yet reached the land God had promised to show them. God provided food for them in the wilderness and gave them rules about how to treat God and how to treat each other.

One day God gave Moses some special instructions for the people. The instructions told them how to build a special house for God. The special meeting place was called the Tabernacle.

Moses told the people they were going to build a place where they could gather and worship God. There was a special tent where a chest containing the Ten Commandments would be kept.

Moses gave the people a list of things needed to build God's house. The list included gold, silver, and copper, yarn in special colors—blue, purple, and red, fine linen, acacia wood, oil, spices, and special stones. The people brought their finest things and offered them to be used for making God's house. When everyone brought their offerings, they had everything they needed.

The people who were talented at building and sewing worked together on this project. The Tabernacle was designed so it could be moved along with the people wherever they went. It was a traveling house for God. Whenever the Israelites saw it they were reminded that wherever they went, God was there, too.

(Based on Exodus 25–31:15; 35:4–40:38)



**For Everyone**

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**DEEP  
BLUE**

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# Instructions for a Worship Center

- *Place a small table in the area your class usually worships.*
- *Place a cloth on the table.*
- *Set a cross on the worship center.*
- *Open the Bible and find Exodus 6:7.*
- *Use the piece of ribbon as a bookmark to mark this place in the Bible.*
- *Place the Bible on the worship center.*
- *Place the candle and basket on the worship center.*







# Talk About A House for God

## Bible Story

Exodus 25-31:15;  
35:4-40:38

## Anchor Point

God cares for all  
people.



## Say the Bible verse together:

"I'll take you as my people, and I'll be your God." (Exodus 6:7)

## Talk about today's Bible story:

The Israelites offered their possessions, their time, and their talents to build the Tabernacle. When the Tabernacle was finished, it reminded the Israelite people God was always with them.

What reminds you that God is always with you?

What places do you feel closest to God?

What is special about these places?

## Pray together:

Thank you, God, for a wonderful place to worship you. Help us to invite others to worship. Amen.

Play these games  
to learn more  
about the Bible!



Scan this QR code to download the  
**Deep Blue Kids App.**

Or visit [www.DeepBlueKids.com](http://www.DeepBlueKids.com)  
to discover more resources.



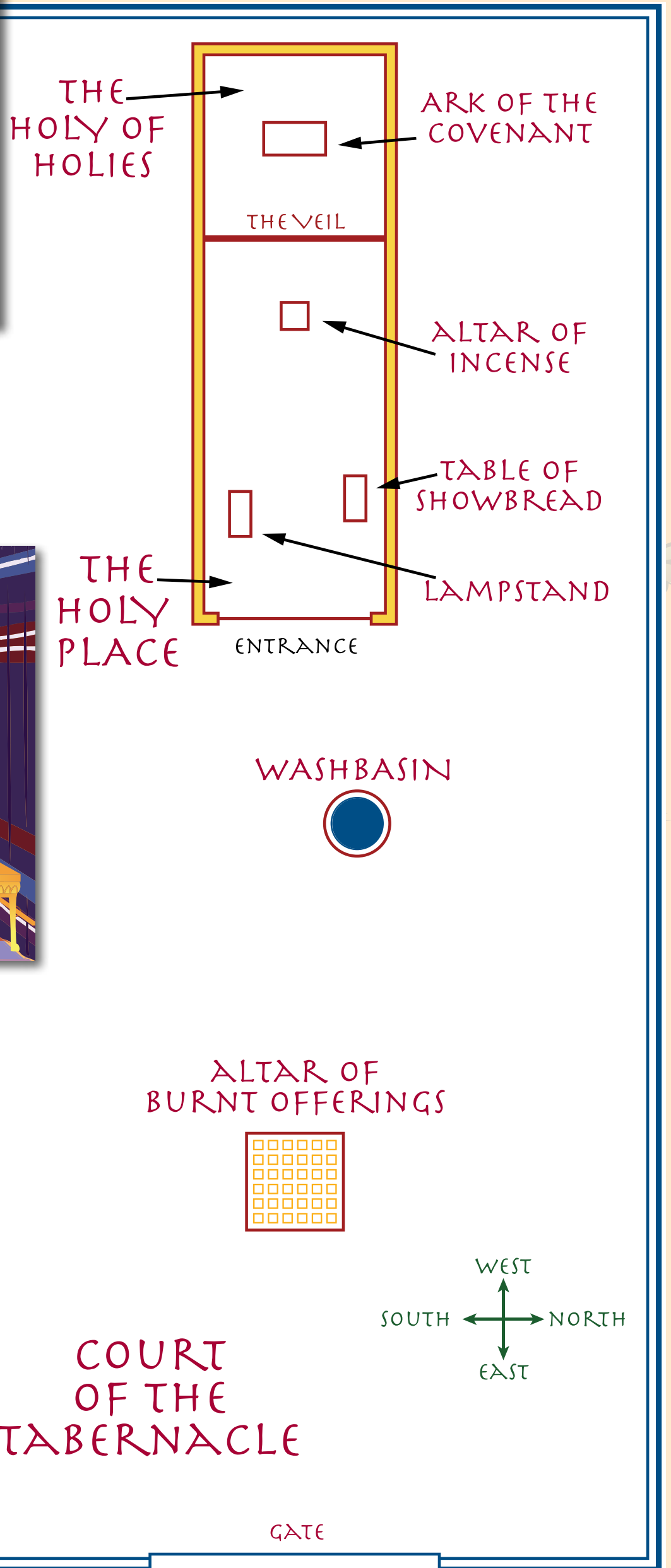
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**“I’ll take you as my people,  
and I’ll be your God.”**

Exodus 6:7





# "I'll take you as my people, and I'll be your God."

Exodus 6:7



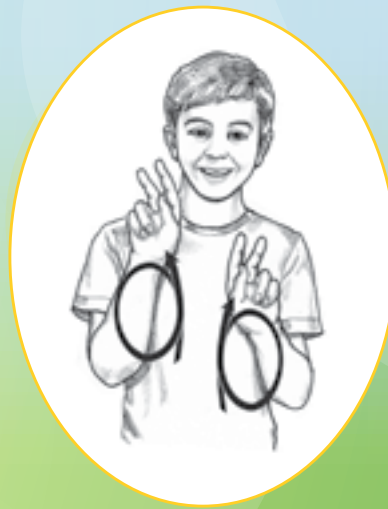
**I'll  
(God)**



**take  
(care of)**



**you**



**people**



**I'll  
(God)**



# Where Is God?

