



NOVEMBER THEME

JAM SESSION

Build a Better Beat

BIBLE STORY

EXODUS 25:8-9; 28:1; 31:1-11; 35:21, 25, 34; 39:42-43 (Exodus 19, 25)

Come Together | Building the Tabernacle

BOTTOM LINE

God wants us to work together

MEMORY VERSE

“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

LIFE APP

Cooperation | Working together to do more than you can do alone

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COOPERATION** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

THIS WEEK—Key Question: Why would God want us to work together? We kick off the month looking at how God’s people cooperated to build the tabernacle. We read in **Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1,3; 31:1-11; 35:21,25,34; 39:42-43** how God chose people to work together because of how God gifted them. They combined their skills to create a beautiful place to worship God.

Bottom Line: God wants us to work together. Sometimes we think it’d be better if we didn’t have to rely on anyone else to get a job done, but this isn’t how God created us. God created us for community, to work together, and do more than we can do on our own. We hope that families see the value in cooperation because cooperation starts with God.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Ask God to help kids see that God wants us to work together because things just work better when we work together. Pray that kids would be able to put aside their differences and their own desires in order to cooperate with their peers.

•• JUST FOR FUN

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle and tell kids close their eyes.
- Explain that the group will create a mental picture with each person adding a detail to the picture.
- Start by giving the group an object to imagine, such as a cat.
- Ask someone to add a detail he or she is imagining about the cat, like a black cat.
- Continue taking turns to add details to create a bigger picture, such as “a black cat sitting on a chair.”
- The object is not to tell a story but to share what you are “seeing.”
- Make sure everyone adds a detail to the picture.
- Give kids an opportunity to discuss how their original mental picture changed as the group added details.



•• **GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME**

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: No supplies needed

NOTE: If you have fewer than ten kids in your group, consider partnering with another small group to play.

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle, reach across the circle with their RIGHT hand, and grab someone else's right hand. Kids may not grab the hand of someone standing next to them.
- Then, tell kids to reach out with their LEFT hand and grab someone else's left hand across the circle. Kids may not grab the hand of someone next to them or the hand of the same person holding their right hand.
- Let kids work together to untangle the knot they've made without letting go of one another's hands.
- They can go over or under each other's arms or legs.
- The goal is to get the group back into a circle and untangle the knot!

What You Say: "Excellent job, my friends. The hardest part of this game was that you had to work together without dropping your hands. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll hear/we heard about some people who worked together so that they could do what God wanted them to do."

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bags filled with craft supplies

What You Do:

- Briefly review the following points of the Bible story:
 - God gave Moses instructions to build a special tent where God would live. God told Moses to speak to two workers, Bezalel [BEZ-uh-lel] and Oholiab [oh-HOH-lee-ab]. God had given them the skills they needed to do the work.
 - All the people brought supplies, and Bezalel and Oholiab guided the workers.
 - With God's help, the people built a beautiful home for God to live among God's people.
- Help kids get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a bag. Tell them not to peek at what's inside. When every group has a bag, invite kids to open them, pull out the supplies, and then work together with the other groups to make something for God. Whatever they create, keep in mind that it's the process—not the product—that's important.
- As kids work, ask the following questions to further review today's Bible story:
 - Why did Moses go to the mountain? *(To talk to God)*
 - What did God instruct Moses to do? *(To build a Tabernacle—a sacred tent—for God)*
 - Name some of the things the skilled workers needed to do to build the tabernacle? *(Work with bronze, silver and gold; set the stones; work with wood; weave special cloth)*
 - Where did the materials come from? *(People brought them as offerings)*
 - Why do you think God called them to build a tent rather than a permanent building? *(Moses and the Israelites were traveling in the desert so they needed something that could be transported to travel with them)*



What You Say: “With God’s help, the Israelites did something that seemed impossible. They made a beautiful home for God to live among God’s people. They did it by trusting God and by working together. Building the tabernacle was a VERY big job. It was too big for Moses or Bezalel or Oholiab to complete alone. It took the entire Israelite community with everyone using his or her own talents and skills and offerings to complete the work. It required cooperation. **[Bottom Line]** **God wants us to work together.** God knows that when we do, we can accomplish WAY more than we ever could alone!”

[Make It Personal] *(Tell your group about a time when you completed a BIG task with a group of people. Maybe you cleaned up trash at a local park or roadway or were a part of a group project at school or work. How did the job require cooperation? Why do you think God wants us to work together?)*

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Copy paper, pens, Bible

What You Do:

- On the paper, write the heading, “TABERNACLE.”
- Ask: What is a tabernacle? *(A huge portable tent that could be taken down and set up as the Israelites moved from place to place)*
—Why was the tabernacle built? *(Exodus 25:8—So God could come and live with them; it was a place set apart for God to meet with God’s people.)*
- Explain that information about the tabernacle is found in the book of Exodus.
- Write Exodus 31:1-11 and Exodus 35:21, 25, 34 under “Tabernacle” on the copy paper.
- Encourage kids to work together to look up the Bible verses and identify the people and skills required to build the tabernacle.
- As they identify people and skills, instruct them to write their answers on the paper under the “Tabernacle” heading. Potential answers could include:
—Exodus 31:1-11 *(Bezalel, Oholiab, designers, stonecutters, wood workers, seamstresses, priests)*
—Exodus 35:21 *(people to pay for the supplies and the construction)*
—Exodus 35:25 *(weavers)*
—Exodus 35:34 *(teachers)*
- Review the list kids created.
- Emphasize that God asked the Israelites to build the tabernacle, and it took a lot of people working together to complete it.
- Ask: Why do you think it took so many people to build the tabernacle? *(It was a big job; one person couldn’t have had all the skills needed to complete it, so everyone felt a part of the community—the tabernacle was for all the Israelites)*
—As part of the church, why do you think God wants us to work together?
—What about our time together today? Who worked together to provide us with our time together? *(Be sure to include the people who are working behind the scenes, e.g. the people who clean the environment, people who write the curriculum, people who give money to the church for the programs, etc.)*

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask some of the following questions...
—Why does God want us to work together?
—What could happen if we don’t work together?
—What are some reasons that keep us from working well with others? *(We want the praise, we don’t value others input, they can’t do it as well as we could, it is faster if I just do it alone, etc.)*



—What are some reasons we should work with others? (*God asks us to, we should treat others the way we want to be treated, God gave us unique skills so we could work together just like when the Israelites were building the tabernacle, etc.*)

- Can you think of a time in history when a group of people worked together to show the world God's love?

•• VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible, balloons, markers

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to work together to find the monthly memory verse, Ecclesiastes 4:9.
- Read the verse together.
- Give each kid a balloon.
- Ask: What about our time together today? Who worked together to put together the worship time and our activities in small group for us today?
- As kids give answers, instruct them to write one answer on their balloon.

—Each balloon should represent a person necessary to create today's experience.

—Examples could include: worship team onstage, small group leader, tech person, cleaning crew, welcome team, etc.

- Tell kids to blow up their balloons.
- Instruct kids to stand up, toss their balloons in the air, and work to keep them in the air.
- Next, give all the balloons to one kid and ask him to keep all of them in the air at the same time.
- Allow other kids to take turns trying to keep all the balloons in the air on their own as time allows.
- When finished, ask kids to compare keeping the balloons in the air together versus individually.
- Ask: Why is it better to work together?

—What are things we do that are better when done with someone else?

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Balloons from the "Verse to Take with You" activity, GodTime Cards

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to select a balloon. (*Note: If you didn't do the "Verses to Take With You" activity, take some time now to brainstorm some of the people who worked together to facilitate your time together today (examples: worship team, small group leader, tech person, cleaning crew, etc.)*)

- Ask each kid to pray a short prayer thanking God for the person on his or her balloon (*or someone you just brainstormed*).

- Encourage them to include in their prayers why they are thankful for the person.

—For example, if you have "Worship Team," you might say, "Thank You, God, for our worship team. I love singing, and they lead great songs for us each week."

—Or if you have "cleaning crew," you might pray, "Thank you, God, for our cleaning staff. It is so nice to come to a clean space and not have to worry about sitting in gum."

- Close in prayer...

What You Say: "God, we are so thankful for your Word and the stories you share with us to guide how we live. We know you want us to work together, and when we do it well, it is an opportunity for us to show the world your love. Thank you, God, for the talents and gifts you have uniquely given each of us. Please guide us to see opportunities where we can work together to get your work done. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, give each child a **GodTime Card**.