

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



THE ARK AND THE TABERNACLE

📖 Exodus 25:10-22; 35:10-19; Numbers 9:22

🎯 **Aim:** To learn the meaning behind the Ark and the Tabernacle

Throughout our Explore It sessions this month we have followed the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness. God gave the people special laws to follow to show their love to him and other people. In today's session we are going to discover God's specific instructions to the Israelites about how these laws should be kept safe and secure. We will learn all about the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Drawing paper, lots of yellow or gold pens/pencils and the Ark of the Covenant handout
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- Pictionary / a drawing game or clues on slips of paper, folded up in a container
- To provide a way for the children to play Guess the Drawing (Start it), eg pens/pencils, plus paper on flipchart stands or paper taped to the wall, or large sheets of paper on the table/floor

Start It

💬 **Say:** Later in the session you will get the opportunity to use your artistic skills. For our starter today we're going to play Guess the Drawing.

If you have the board game Pictionary or another drawing guessing game, it might be easier to use the clues from there. If not, there is a list of suggestions below to get you started. Each clue could be written on a slip of paper, folded up and placed in a tub. You can play as a whole group or in smaller teams. The aim of the game is for the children to guess the item that is being drawn.

Clues

strawberry	candle	toothpaste	rainbow
bunk bed	bee	lemon	whistle
fireworks	banana	sleeping bag	battery
mountains	library	hospital	giraffe
panda	pirate	sandcastle	dolphin

Sing It

💬 **Say:** Let's share our memory verse together for the final time.

Memory verse

'You will only need to remain calm. The Lord will fight for you.'

— (Exodus 14:14 ICB)

Say: Our song for today reminds us how powerful our God is.

'My God is powerful' Everest VBS Music Video by Lifetree Kids (3:36)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIMDCwirYoQ

Tell It

Ask:

- Do you, or does anyone you know, have a special box to keep important memories or sentimental items?
- If you created a box like this, what kind of items would you keep in there?

Say: In today's story, a very special box was created to keep God's laws safe and secure.

Say: In our last Explore It session, we heard all about the Ten Commandments given by God to the people.

Ask: How many can you remember? See if you can work as a team to remember all ten.

Say: The Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets of the law given to Moses by God. God wanted them to be kept in a very special way and gave specific instructions for a box to carry them in. This box was called the Ark of the Covenant.

Say: God gave Moses a set of instructions to create the Ark of the Covenant. Using the instructions, we're going to have a go at creating our own picture of the Ark of the Covenant.

Drawing

Give each children the Ark of the Covenant handout. Read through Exodus 25:10-22 together. Read each line and encourage the children to annotate the important instructions, to circle/highlight key words and/or draw a doodle so they know what it means. Encourage the children to visualise their Ark, to build the image in their head and then have a go at drawing it.

When the children have completed their drawings, watch the clip to discover what another artist has thought the Ark of the Covenant looked like. Discuss with the children how similar/different their drawings are compared to the clip. Note that the Bible translation used is also different.

Video

The Ark of the Testimony (Exodus 25:10-22) by Bible Scenes (2:20)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=KejXOYayxjU

Say: The tablets of stone were placed in the Ark of the Covenant and this special box was very precious to the Israelites. Again, God had clear instructions about how it should be covered and protected with a special tent as the Israelites moved through the wilderness.

Read:

'Let all the skilled workers come and make everything the Lord commanded: the Holy Tent, its outer tent and its covering, the hooks, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; the Ark of the Covenant, its poles, lid and the curtain in front of it; the table and its poles, all the things that go with the table and the bread that shows we are in God's presence; the lampstand for the light and all the things that go with it, the lamps and olive oil for the light; the altar of incense and its poles, the special oil and the sweet-smelling incense, the curtain for the entrance of the Meeting Tent; the altar of burnt offering and its bronze screen, its poles and all its tools, the bronze bowl and its base; the curtains around the courtyard, their posts and bases, and the curtain at the entry to the courtyard; the pegs of the Holy Tent and of the courtyard and their ropes; the special clothes that the priest will wear in the Holy Place. These are the holy clothes for Aaron the priest and his sons to wear when they serve as priests.'

— (Exodus 35:10-19 ICB)

Say: Let's watch the clip to find out how the Tabernacle may have looked.

Video

The construction of Tabernacle by My First Bible (10:46) Stop the clip at 3:54. 'A special garment was prepared for them.'

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2E7PdA6IC0

Ask: Was the Tabernacle, the special tent, how you imagined it? Explain your thoughts.

Say: In Numbers 9:22 we discover that God continued to guide the people as they moved through the wilderness.

Read:

'The cloud might stay over the Tent for two days, a month or a year. As long as it stayed, the people would camp. But when the cloud lifted, they moved.'

— (Numbers 9:22 *ICB*)

Action It

Discuss

You may want to sit the children in the circle. Discuss how God used the creative talents of the Israelites for his glory. Encourage the children to think of people they know who use their skills and talents for God. Finally, ask the children to think about and answer the following questions:

→ What skills would you like to use to express your feelings about God? What could you do this week to start using your talents and skills to glorify God?

Say: Throughout this month we have learned about the way God stood by his people and helped them to escape the slavery of Egypt. We saw how he guided them through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. We read the special laws given to the people to help them love God and love others, and we saw how God was with his people every step of the way.

Ask:

→ In what ways do you know that God is with you?

→ What does our memory verse teach us to do when we feel uncertain or afraid?

Ask the children to find a comfortable place to rest and be still. Listen to the song in the following clip, without showing the video, and encourage the children to spend time thanking God that he is always with them. You may want to stop the clip early, depending on the restlessness of the group. When the song has finished, bring the Explore It session to a close with prayer.

Listen

'Battle belongs' (Official Lyric Video) by Phil Wickham (4:47)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=johgSKNj3-A

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

AUGUST
SESSION 04

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FOR ME



Recap

In this week's session we found out more about God's plans for the way the Ten Commandments should be stored. Watch the clip to recap what you have discovered about the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle.

The Ark and the Tabernacle by Faith Kids Video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCTNy58bFB0

TOGETHER



Create

With the help of the people at home, create a special memory box. Discuss the kinds of items you could keep in there and why they are special to you.



Song for the week

'My God is powerful' Everest VBS
Music Video by Lifetree Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1MDCwirYoQ



Memory verse

**'You will only need to remain calm.
The Lord will fight for you.'**

— (Exodus 14:14 ICB)

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www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

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