

Moses in the Wilderness


Bible verses:

Exodus 16:3–8, 19–20,
27–30; 17:1–7


Aim:

To discover how God provided
for his people in the wilderness
part of God's story


Today's fruit:

Patience



Memory verse

'My whole being, praise the Lord. Do not forget all his kindnesses.'

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)



Start it

Play a game using a blindfold: Pin the tail on the donkey / Follow the leader etc. Talk together about how it feels when you don't know where you're going. Explain that in today's story we find out about lots of people who didn't know where they were going.



Share it

(Dietary requirements and permissions allowing) buy enough Wotsits (cheese puff crisps) for the group to share! Sit in a circle and ask: How do you think the Israelites felt as they were wandering around the desert for 40 years? Encourage lots of answers. Would you feel hungry if you had to walk for a long time? The Israelites didn't have any food, but something amazing happened! God provided them with food, so when they woke up, they had food each morning! Show the Wotsits and ask the group if anyone

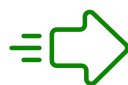
knows what they are. Say that the Israelites spoke a language called Hebrew, and when they saw the food they asked 'Man hu?' (try saying it together). That means 'What is it?!' They didn't know what it was so they called it 'what is it' – we might shorten that to 'what's it' / Wotsit! Share the Wotsits and talk about your favourite food!



Sing it

'Great Big God' by MusicForMoppets (2:58)

'Shout Praises – Way Maker' (Official Live Video) by Shout Praises Kids (3:05)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Sand art. There are lots of options available. A simple idea is using glue along the bottom of a piece of paper, then carefully adding sand to create a desert/wilderness. Draw the desert floor line first, with people walking along it, then add the glue and sand.
- **Play:** If you want an active game, explain that in the wilderness God provided the Israelites with all they needed: food, water,

rest. Come up with three actions together, then the leader randomly says the three words. The children do the actions as quickly as they can. This will burn some energy! If you want to add another action, try 'Praise'.

- **Pray:** Either stand in a circle and walk on the spot (or use index and middle fingers to imitate walking on the other palm) and pray.

God, we know you were with your people when they were walking through the wilderness. Please help us to remember you walk with us too. Amen.

- **Try:** Use sand in trays to play with 'the wilderness'. You could provide small figurines to be placed in the desert too.

Moses and God's Commandments


Bible verses:

Exodus 19:16–20;
20:1–17; 32:1–6


Aim:

To explore the Ten Commandments, and why God gave them to the Israelites


Today's fruit:

Self-control



Memory verse

'My whole being, praise the Lord. Do not forget all his kindnesses.'

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)



Sing it

'Great Big God' by MusicForMoppets (2:58)

'Shout Praises – Way Maker' (Official Live Video) by Shout Praises Kids (3:05)



Start it

Ask everyone to show you '1' with their hands, then 2 etc. Go up to 10. Ask if they think you can all count to 10 together. See if you can clap 10 times as a group. You can try other actions too (10 star jumps / high-fives / foot taps). Ask if they might know what number is in the Bible story today. God gave ten special rules (called commandments) to help people on earth to know how to live in a way that was loving and honouring God and treating others well.



Share it

Print the 'Story Script' handout to talk about the Ten Commandments (A3 will work best). You can use it like a comic strip. Cut out the individual pictures, give them out and put them in order as you go. Ask: Are rules important? Why / why not? Why do you think God asked his people to follow these new rules?



Action it

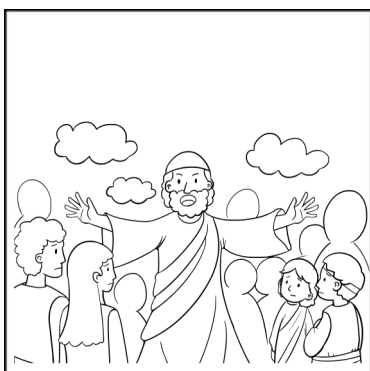
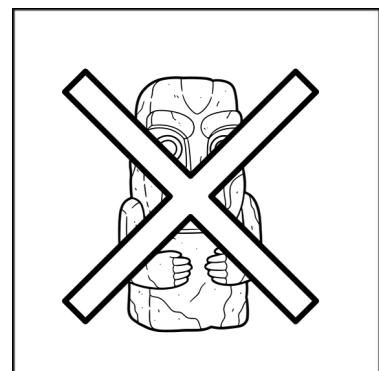
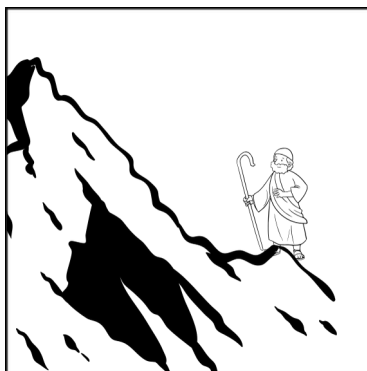
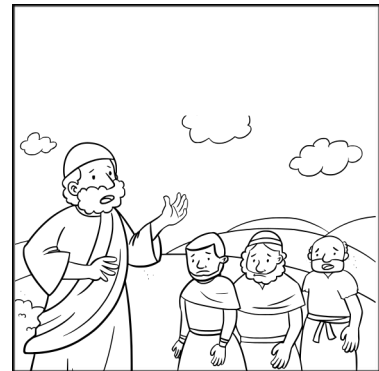
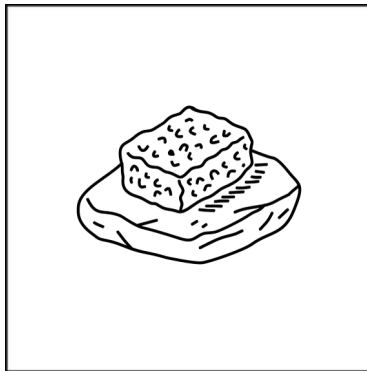
Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Colour in the Ten Commandments Bible story together and put it up in your space if possible.
- **Play:** 'Simon says' – talk about following instructions.
- **Pray:** Thank God for loving us, and always wanting what's best for us. Ask God to help us listen to what he's saying, put him first and care for others.
- **Try:** Using the printed templates (or using some of your own) put the Ten Commandments (wording has been simplified) around the room, and allow the children to go and look at them all. They can go with adults to help them read if required. After they've looked at (and understood) them all, give each child a pen or pencil, and ask them to draw a tick or make a mark on the ones they think are important rules. Ask why (there doesn't have to be right or wrong answers – just be curious!).

Explore it **Light**

Story Script from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones

1. God had done amazing things for his people. He'd hidden them inside a cloud. He'd moved the sea. He'd set them free. But God's people still weren't happy.
2. Every day of their journey, God kept on showing his people how well he would look after them if they would trust him, and obey him.
3. Still God's children didn't trust him or do what he said. They thought they could do a better job of looking after themselves and making themselves happy. But God knew there was no such thing as happiness without him.
4. So God led them to a tall mountain. God wanted to talk to his people and show them what he was like. He wanted to help them know him better and tell them about the special land he was going to give them.
5. God called Moses up the mountain. And God gave Moses ten rules called 'commandments'. 'I want you to love me more than anything else in all the world - and know that I love you, too,' God told them. 'That's the most important thing of all.'
6. God gave them other rules, like don't make yourselves pretend gods; don't kill people; or steal; or lie. The rules showed God's people how to live, and how to be close to him, and how to be happy. They showed how life works best.
7. 'God promises to always look after you' said Moses 'Will you love him and keep these rules?' 'We can do it! Yes! We promise!'
8. But they were wrong. They couldn't do it. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn't keep God's rules all the time. God knew they couldn't. And he wanted them to know it too.
9. Only one person could keep all the rules. And many years later God would send him - to stand in their place and be perfect for them. Because rules couldn't save them. Only God could save them.



The Ten Commandments

(Based on Exodus 20:1-17)

1. Put God first.
2. Only worship God (no fake gods or idols).
3. Always respect God's name.
4. Take a day to rest and remember God.
5. Respect and obey your parents.
6. Do not hurt or kill anyone.
7. Treat marriage with respect.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Be grateful for what you have and do not be jealous of others.

Moses and the Tabernacle



Bible verses:

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



Aim:

To learn the meaning behind
the Ark and the Tabernacle



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Memory verse

'My whole being, praise the Lord. Do not forget all his kindnesses.'

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)



Sing it

'Great Big God' by MusicForMoppets (2:58)

'Shout Praises - Way Maker' (Official Live Video) by Shout Praises Kids (3:05)



Start it

Provide items to build with and allow the group to have some time to create something. (You can have Lego, building blocks / recycling etc.) After 10-15 minutes, ask them what they've made, and why they made it.



Share it

Using bricks, create a 'Tabernacle' (see below). You can make it small and simple or get creative! The Tabernacle in the Bible was a special place made for God to meet his people.

Ask:

Which special places do we have to worship God? Where can we talk to God?

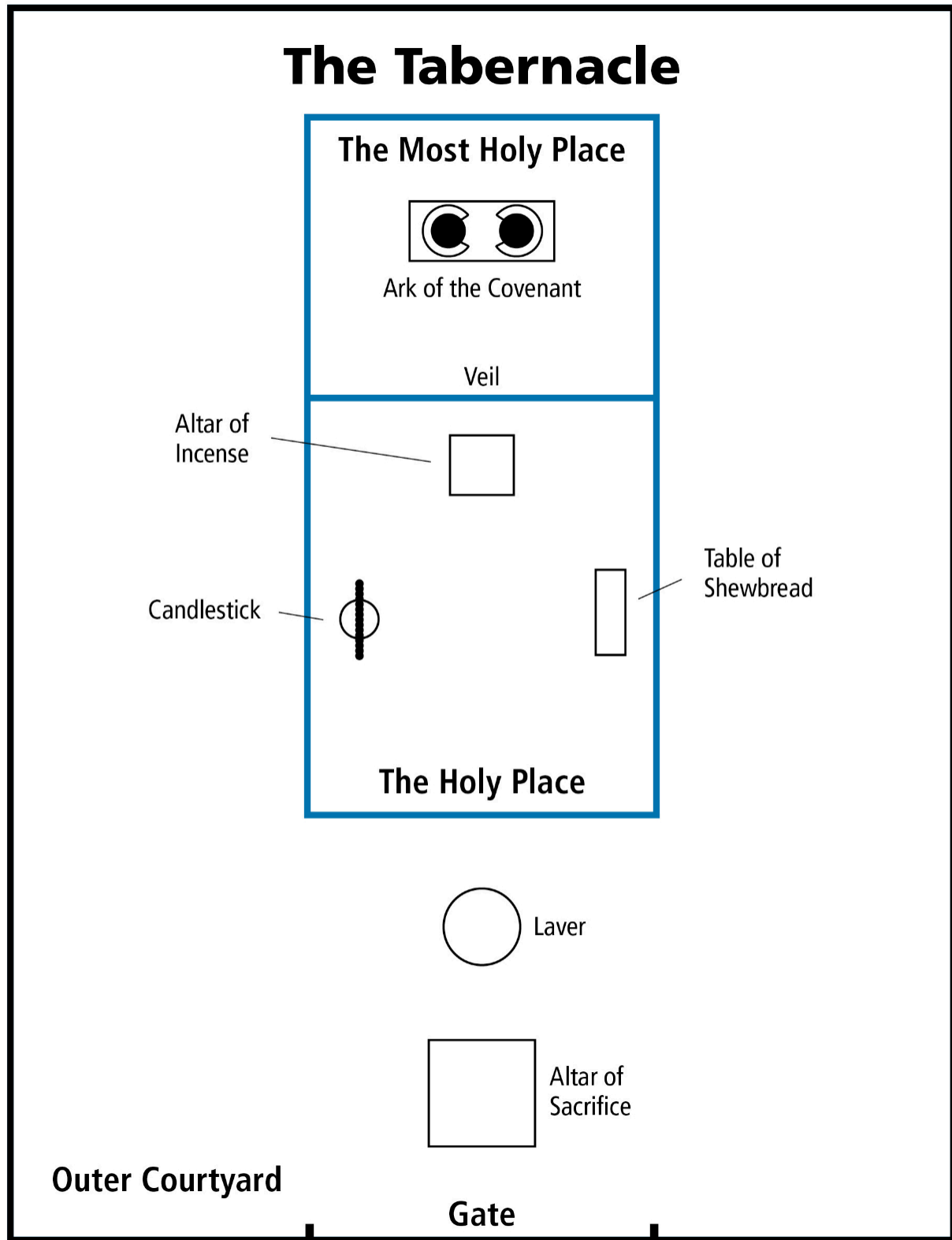


Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Can you create a 'tabernacle' together in your space? Using chairs/pegs and sheets, create a space where you can sit together to pray. (Make sure you talk about tabernacles being something in the Old Testament where special people spoke to God, but because we know Jesus we can speak to God wherever we are!)
- **Play:** Allow some time to play and build with the bricks. You could ask them to build somewhere special for God (although we know God is always with us).
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, that you meet people in buildings like this one (place hands together over your head to make a roof shape). Thank you, God, that you speak to people's heads (hands on heads) and hearts (hands on hearts) and everywhere (make a big circle). Amen.

- **Try:** Sing / listen to Duggie Dug Dug – ‘Wonderful Lord’ (Official Video) as a prayer.



Tabernacle: (image credit: magazine.byu.edu/article/6-symbols-ancient-tabernacle)

Joshua in Jericho



Bible verses:

Joshua 1:6–9;
6: 1–11, 15–16



Aim:

To know what happened to the Israelites in the years that followed the Commandments and Ark



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Memory verse

'My whole being, praise the Lord. Do not forget all his kindnesses.'

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)



Start it

Play 'Red light, green light'. Everyone lines up. When the leader says 'Green light' they can move; when they say 'Red light', everyone must stop. If you're caught moving when 'Red light' is said, you go back to the starting line. First to get to the finish line wins. Play this a few times. Sit in a circle and ask what the red and green light rule comes from. What do they mean? When people are using the roads, they must know what to do at the lights.



Share it

You can share this story with this video:

God's Story: Joshua and the Battle of Jericho by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:51)

Or for a more interactive option, you could use 'the Bible App for Kids' using the story 'Waters Part and Walls Fall'. This app can be downloaded on to a digital device from your app store.

Ask:

What was interesting about that story? What was surprising? What did God say in this story? What can we remember about this story?



Sing it

'Great Big God' by MusicForMoppets (2:58)

'Shout Praises – Way Maker' (Official Live Video) by Shout Praises Kids (3:05)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Use recycled objects to make instruments to march with.
- **Play:** Put something (like a chair) in the middle of your space to walk around. Ask the group to move around in a circle in one direction. The leader shouts out an instruction, and everyone must do the right action while moving around the circle. Action examples:
 - **March:** March while walking around.
 - **Music:** Pretend to play a trumpet.
- **Pray:** Come up with some actions together for the following words:

- **Listen**
- **Speak**
- **Know**

Then share a prayer: 'Dear God, help us to listen to you, so that we can hear what you say when you speak to us. Help us to know your voice. Amen.'

- **Try:** Act out the story together using instruments that you have, eg maracas, drums etc. Tip: Test out starting and stopping the noise together! (Be aware there may be some children who are sensitive to loud noises, so give them plenty of warning or offer a space away from the noise)

Samuel learned to listen



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 1:10-28; 3:1-18



Aim:

To learn to listen for God and speak the truth



Today's fruit:

Peace



Memory verse

'My whole being, praise the Lord. Do not forget all his kindnesses.'

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)



Start it

This session is set up a little differently. For the 'Start it' activity we are going to see/hear the story of Samuel, then there's time to listen for God as Samuel did.

Watch:

Samuel (God's Story) by Crossroads Kids Club (4:18)



Share it

God speaks to us in different ways. Some people hear God's voice like Samuel. Others understand what God is saying to them through music, reading, silence, other people or feelings. God created our bodies to be able to communicate with him! Set out some prayer spaces (ideas below) and allow the group plenty of time to make their way around the activities freely. It may be a new concept for some, but offer gentle support and encourage them to take their time. Pray first, asking God to be with you and speak.

Prayer space ideas:

- **Sound spotting:** Sit comfortably and listen quietly for one minute. Notice sounds nearby, sounds far away and sounds inside the room. Afterwards, draw or name one sound you noticed.
- **Be still bottle:** Gently shake a sealed sensory bottle, then watch the glitter settle. Breathe slowly and let your body become still too. Think about one thing that feels important today.
- **Listening hands:** Trace around your hand. On each finger, draw or write something that helps you listen well: being still, noticing, wondering, waiting or talking to a trusted person.
- **Wonder stones:** Choose a smooth stone, hold it and think quietly. What are you wondering about? You can place the stone in a bowl, draw your thought or share it with an adult.
- **Picture pause:** Look closely at a calm picture or natural object. Notice its colours, shapes and details. Draw anything that comes to mind while you look.
- **Quiet response:** Provide paper, pencils, modelling dough or building bricks. Invite children to respond to the quiet time by making something, writing a word or simply resting. Sharing is always optional.



Sing it

'Great Big God' by MusicForMoppets (2:58)

'Shout Praises – Way Maker' (Official Live Video) by Shout Praises Kids (3:05)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Make a headband: give each child a strip of card and two large ear shapes. Children can decorate the headband and attach an ear to each side. On the band, they can write or draw:
'Speak, Lord. I am listening.'

- **Play:** Sit together and ask for one volunteer. Have the volunteer turn their back to the group and close their eyes. Choose someone else to put on a funny voice and say the person's name. They must listen closely and guess who said their name.
- **Pray:** See Prayer ideas above.
- **Try:** Try a minute of silence. Explain that it is a time to calm our minds and rest with God. Invite them to get comfortable and time a minute.