

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

**Today's fruit:**

Patience



In today's session we continue following God's special family as they journey through the wilderness towards the land he had promised them. When the Israelites became hungry and thirsty, they struggled to trust God and began to complain. Even so, God patiently cared for his people by providing the food, water and rest they needed for the journey. As we explore their story, we will discover how remembering God's kindness helps us to trust him and practise patience while we wait. We will also think about places in the world where clean water is difficult to find and spend time praying for children who walk long distances to collect it.

Each child will need:

- A 'Memory Verse Wristband' handout
- A blue water droplet-shaped paper cut-out
- Pens/pencils – See 'Pray it'
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit – Patience' sign – download from **Salvationist**
- A device that counts steps, eg a phone, smartwatch or pedometer
- A timer (optional)
- Materials to create a water prayer display (optional)



Start it

Say:

Today we're going to hear lots of different sounds that all have one thing in common. Listen carefully to each one and see if you can work out what it is. Some will be easy and some will be much trickier!

Watch:

Guess the Sound (Water Sounds Quiz) by Guess the Sound(4:29)

Each sound is played and then the answer is revealed. The timings below should enable you to stop the clip at the appropriate point for the children to guess the sound. It doesn't matter if they don't get the answers spot on, as some of them are tricky. The aim is to recognise that there are many different water sounds.

0:08-0:14 Water pouring

0:22-0:30 Water drop

0:39-0:45 Whisking water

0:54-1:00 Rain water

1:10-1:16 Sea waves

1:25-1:31 Fountain water

1:41-1:46 Splashing

1:55-2:02 Toilet flush

2:12-2:18 Forest water fountain

2:27-3:33 Gargling

2:43-2:49 Drinking water

2:58-3:05 Canoe lake paddling (well done if they guess this one!)

3:14-3:20 Heavy rain on a lake

3:29-3:36 Swimming in a lake

3:45-3:51 Submarine sonar

4:01-4:06 Sinking in the sea

Say:

We hear and use water every single day without thinking very much about it. We turn on a tap, have a drink, wash our hands or go out in the rain. In today's Bible story we're going to meet God's special family in a place where water wasn't easy to find. We'll discover how God provided exactly what they needed as he led them through the wilderness.



Sing it

Say:

Before we hear today's Bible story, let's learn this month's memory verse together. It reminds us to praise God and remember all the ways he has been kind to us.

Give each child a 'Memory Verse Wristband'.

Memory verse:

My whole being, praise the Lord.

Do not forget all his kindnesses.

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)

Say:

Our song for today reminds us to praise God and remember all that he has done for us.

Watch:

'Good God Almighty' (Worship Motions & Lyrics by Passion Kids Worship) by Kid Kardia (3:13)



Share it

Say:

Last month we discovered how God rescued the Israelites from Egypt by making a way through the Red Sea. God had set his special family free and was leading them towards the land he had promised them. Today's story begins just after that amazing rescue. As the Israelites travelled through the wilderness, they soon discovered that they didn't have enough food or water. They began to wonder whether God would really look after them. Let's discover what happened next.

Watch:

God Provided Manna (Exodus 16-17) by GCFKIDS EUGENE (2:59)

Watch: 0:00 – 1:44 'The Israelites ate manna for 40 years, the whole time they were in the wilderness.'

Ask:

- What were the Israelites complaining about? Where did they say they would rather be?
- How do you think Moses felt when he heard the people complaining again?
- What food did God provide for the Israelites, and what were the rules about eating it?
- What does 'manna' mean?
- In what ways did the Israelites break the rules? Why do you think they did this?

Say:

The Israelites had only just seen God rescue them from Egypt, but when life became difficult they quickly forgot everything he had done for them. Instead of trusting God, they complained because they were hungry and worried. Even so, God patiently cared for his people. He provided exactly what they needed so they could continue following him towards the land he had promised them.

Watch: 1:44–2:59

Ask:

- What were the Israelites complaining about this time?

Read:

The whole Israelite community left the Desert of Sin. They travelled from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim. But there was no water there for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses. They said, ‘Give us water to drink.’

But Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why are you testing the Lord?’

But the people were very thirsty for water. So they grumbled against Moses. They said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it to kill us, our children and our farm animals with thirst?’

So Moses cried to the Lord, ‘What can I do with these people? They are almost ready to kill me with stones.’

(Exodus 17:1–4 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How did the Israelites react when they discovered there was no water?
- What did Moses do when the people complained?

Display the ‘Fruit of the Spirit – Patience’ sign

Say:

The Fruit of the Spirit we’re thinking about today is patience. Patience means choosing to stay calm and keep trusting God, even when things don’t happen as quickly as we’d like.

Ask:

- Why do you think the Israelites found it so difficult to trust God?
- What had God already done for them that they seemed to forget?

Read:

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go ahead of the people of Israel. And take some of the older leaders of Israel with you. Carry with you the staff that you used to strike the Nile River. Now go! I will stand in front of you on a rock at Mount Sinai. Hit that rock with the staff, and water will come out of it. Then the people can drink.’ Moses did these things as the older leaders of Israel watched. Moses named that place Massah because the Israelites

tested the Lord. They asked, ‘Is the Lord with us or not?’ He also named it Meribah because they quarrelled.

(Exodus 17:5–7 ICB)

Ask:

- What did God do when the people complained?
- What does this tell us about what God is like?
- How do you think God wants us to respond when things don’t happen as quickly as we’d like?

Say:

The Israelites often found it difficult to wait and trust God. They complained when they were hungry and thirsty and forgot all that God had already done for them. Even so, God continued to care for his people and patiently provided the food and water they needed. When we have to wait or when life doesn’t go the way we hoped, God can help us to practise patience too. As we remember God’s kindness and faithfulness, we can learn to trust him each day.

 Action it

Say:

In today’s Bible story God provided water for the Israelites when they became thirsty in the wilderness. For many children around the world, finding clean water is still a daily challenge. Some have to walk long distances every day just to collect water for their families.

For this activity you will need a phone, smartwatch or pedometer to count steps. Explain that the group is going to walk one kilometre together. They can either walk around the room or walk on the spot. On average it takes an adult around 1,200–1,500 steps to walk one kilometre. Decide how many steps your group will complete and monitor them using your phone, smartwatch or pedometer.

Children who are unable to take part in the walking activity could time how long it takes the group to walk one kilometre. They could then calculate how long it might take to walk 10km or even 50km to collect water.

Say:

Imagine having to make a journey like that every day before school, simply to collect water for your family.

Watch:

How far would you walk to find clean drinking water? By UNICEF (1:57)

Ask:

- What surprised you about the clip?

- How do you think you would feel if you had to walk that far every day to get water?
- Why is clean water so important?



Pray it

Say:

Today we've discovered that God patiently cared for his special family by providing food and water when they needed it most. We have also learned that many children around the world still struggle to find clean, safe water every day. Let's spend some time praying for them.

Give each child a water droplet-shaped piece of blue paper. Invite them to write or draw a prayer for children and families who have to walk long distances to collect clean water.

If you have an appropriate space, you could create a display by placing an image of a large silver tap at the top of a display board and arranging the children's water droplet prayers underneath. Additional water droplets could be made available for members of the wider church family to add their own prayers.

Alternatively the children could take their water droplet prayer home and use it to remind them to pray throughout the coming week.



Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.

Moses in the Wilderness

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.


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



Pray

Every time you drink a glass of water or run the tap this week, take a moment to pray for those who are unable to access clean, safe water.



Walk

In this week's session we discovered that children in Somalia often have to walk 10 kilometres to access water. This is around 6.2 miles and 12,000 steps. Arrange a walk with the people at home to cover the same distance many children must travel to find water. When the walk is over, discuss together what it must feel like to do that walk every day.



Song for the week

Watch:

'Good God Almighty' (Worship Motions & Lyrics by Passion Kids Worship) by Kid Kardia

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBuOI9fCeKc



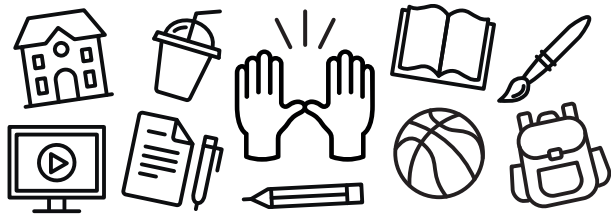
Memory verse

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

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)

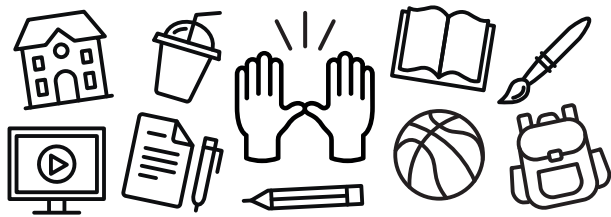
Explore it

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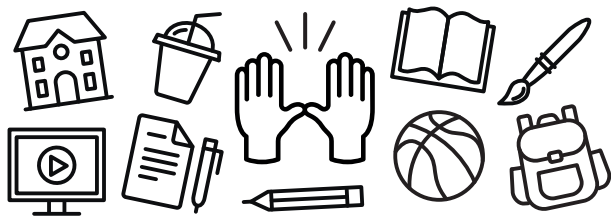
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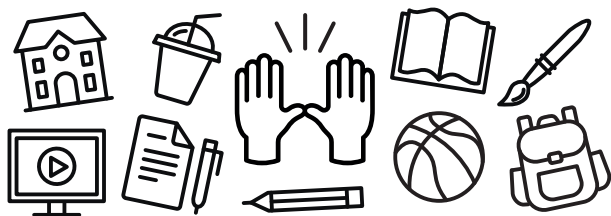
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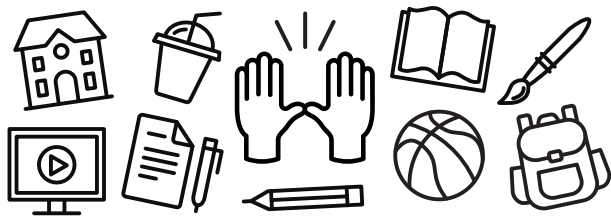
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Moses and God's Commandments

**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



In today's story the Israelites arrive at Mount Sinai, where God gives Moses the Ten Commandments. We will discover that these special commandments were given because God loved his people and wanted to teach them how to love him and love one another. We will also think about what happens when we forget to put God first and discover that God is always ready to forgive us when we make mistakes.

Each child will need:

- A range of art and craft materials – see 'Action it'
- Pens/pencils and paper – see 'Pray it'
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- A timer
- The 'Fruit of the Spirit – Self-Control' sign – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Play a game of 'categories'. For this challenge the children can either take individual turns or work in teams. Each team will be given a category (examples below) and will need to say ten things that fit that category. You will need to time the children, as the quickest time wins the game.

Examples of categories:

- Disney films
- Boys' names
- Girls' names
- Sports
- Chocolate bars

Ask:

- Was it easy or difficult to think of ten things?
- Which category did you find hardest?

Say:

Today the number ten is going to become very important. As the Israelites travelled through the wilderness, God gave Moses ten special commandments. They weren't just a list of rules to follow. They were given to help God's people know how to love him and how to love one another. Today we're going to discover why these ten commandments were so important.



Sing it

Say:

As we get ready for today's Bible story, let's sing a song about the Ten Commandments.

Watch:

'Go Fish' (Ten Commandment Boogie, Great Music For Kids!) by Go Fish Kids Music (3:02)



Share it

Say:

The next part of our exciting story finds the Israelites camped near Mount Sinai.

Read:

It was the morning of the third day. There was thunder and lightning with a thick cloud on the mountain. And there was a very loud blast from a trumpet. All the people in the camp were frightened. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God. They stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke. This happened because the Lord came down on it in fire. The smoke rose from the mountain like smoke from a furnace. And the whole mountain shook wildly. The sound from the trumpet became louder. Then Moses spoke, and the voice of God answered him.

So the Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai. Then he called Moses to come up to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up.

(Exodus 19:16–20 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Imagine you were Moses being called up the mountain by God. How would you be feeling?
- What do you think God wanted to say to Moses?

Say:

Let's watch the clip to find out what happens next.

Watch:

God Gave the Ten Commandments (Bible Story) by Hyejin Park (2:53)

Ask:

How long had the Israelites been away from Egypt when they arrived at Mount Sinai?

Say:

God wanted a special relationship with the Israelites, so he made an important agreement with them.

Ask:

What agreement did God make with the people?

Say:

The people agreed to do what God had said, but they didn't have a very good track record of trusting him and following his commands.

Ask:

Think back to last week's story. What commands did the people break regarding food, water and rest?

Say:

God reminded the Israelites how he had rescued them from slavery and cared for them in the wilderness. He gave them the Ten Commandments because he loved them and wanted to teach them how to live as his people.

Read:

Then God spoke all these words:

'I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves.

'You must not have any other gods except me.

'You must not make for yourselves any idols. Don't make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. You must not worship or serve any idol. This is because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. A

person may sin against me and hate me. I will punish his children, even his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But I will be very kind to thousands who love me and obey my commands.

‘You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly. The Lord will punish anyone who is guilty and misuses his name.

‘Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day. You may work and get everything done during six days each week. But the seventh day is a day of rest to honour the Lord your God. On that day no one may do any work: not you, your son or daughter, or your men or women slaves. Neither your animals nor the foreigners living in your cities may work. The reason is that in six days the Lord made everything. He made the sky, earth, sea and everything in them. And on the seventh day, he rested. So the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

‘Honour your father and your mother. Then you will live a long time in the land. The Lord your God is going to give you this land.

‘You must not murder anyone.

‘You must not be guilty of adultery.

‘You must not steal.

‘You must not tell lies about your neighbour in court.

‘You must not want to take your neighbour’s house. You must not want his wife or his men or women slaves. You must not want his ox or his donkey. You must not want to take anything that belongs to your neighbour.’

(Exodus 20:1-17 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Do these commandments seem fair to you? Explain why.
- In what ways are they similar to the laws we have today?

Say:

The first four commandments taught the Israelites how to love and honour God. The final six taught them how to love and treat other people. Together they showed God’s people how he wanted them to live. Moses went to meet with God on Mount Sinai and stayed there for a long time. The people were left at the base of the mountain.

Ask:

- What happened while Moses was at the top of Mount Sinai?

Read:

The people saw that a long time had passed. And Moses had not come down from the mountain. So they gathered around Aaron. They said to him, ‘Moses led us out of Egypt. But we don’t know what has happened to him. So make us gods who will lead us.’

Aaron said to the people, ‘Take off the gold earrings that your wives, sons and daughters

are wearing. Bring them to me.’ So all the people took their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. Aaron took the gold from the people. Then he melted it and made a statue of a calf. He finished it with a tool. Then the people said, ‘Israel! These are your gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!’

Aaron saw all this, and he built an altar before the calf. Then he made an announcement. He said, ‘Tomorrow there will be a special feast to honour the Lord.’ The people got up early the next morning. They offered whole burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. First the people sat down to eat and drink. Then they got up and had wild parties.

(Exodus 32:1–6 *ICB*)

Say:

Moses was only gone from the camp a couple of months and yet the people couldn’t even keep their side of the agreement for that long. This pattern of disobeying God continued for a long time.

- The ‘Fruit of the Spirit – Self Control’ sign – download from **Salvationist**

Ask:

- Why do you think the Israelites found it so difficult to wait for Moses to return?
- Why do you think they chose to make the golden calf instead of trusting God?

Say:

God had rescued the Israelites from slavery, provided food and water in the wilderness, and now he was teaching them how to live as his people. Even so, they quickly forgot everything God had done for them and made something else more important than him.

The Holy Spirit helps us to grow the fruit of self-control in our lives. This helps us to choose God’s way, even we find it difficult.

Ask:

- What kinds of things can sometimes become more important to us than God?
- How can self-control help us to keep God first in our lives?

Say:

The Israelites made a big mistake, but God did not stop loving them. He continued to guide them and teach them because he wanted the very best for his people. Today Jesus teaches us the same thing. He said the greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

 Action it**Say:**

God gave the Israelites ten special commandments to help them love him and love one another. Today we're going to create our own version of the Ten Commandments to remind us that God wants the very best for us.

Give the children a range of art and craft materials. They may wish to cut out two stone tablets and write the commandments on them, create a colourful poster or design a cartoon version. They could use the original text from Exodus 20:1-17 or this simplified version.

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.

As the children work, encourage discussion about how the commandments help us love God and love other people. Some of the commandments may require sensitive, age-appropriate explanation.

Say:

Throughout today's story we discovered that God had done so much for the Israelites, but they soon forgot his goodness. God's commandments were part of his kindness too. He gave them because he loved his people and wanted to teach them how to love him and love one another. Our memory verse reminds us not to forget all the good things God has done.

Memory Verse:

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

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)

Say:

As you take your Ten Commandments home this week, remember that God's commandments are a sign of his love and kindness. They remind us to put God first and to care for the people around us.



Pray it

Ask:

- Which of the commandments help us think about the way we should treat other people?
- Why do you think these commandments are still important today?

Say:

We all make mistakes and sometimes choose our own way instead of God's way. Our choices can hurt other people, but God is always ready to forgive us.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil.

Say:

Think about a time over the past week when you may have made a mistake or hurt someone through your words or actions. Spend a few quiet moments writing or drawing a prayer asking God to forgive you. If there is someone you need to say sorry to or make things right with, you could ask God to help you do that too.

Allow a few minutes for the children to reflect and write their prayers. If appropriate, invite any children who would like to share their prayer with the group.



Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.



Moses and God's Commandments

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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



Pray

During this week's session you took the time to think about the people you may have hurt through mistakes you made. Spend time reading through your prayer and your solution to make things right. Pray for the person who was impacted by your choices and ask God to make the relationship right again.



Share

Watch the clip with the people at home and talk about why forgiveness is important to God.

Watch:

Out on a Limb (Forgive) by Saddleback Kids (2:38)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN1xDhrqZRI



Song for the week

Watch:

'Go Fish' (Ten Commandment Boogie, Great Music For Kids!) by Go Fish Kids Music

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2hB5Gqo8Vo



Memory verse

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

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)

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



Throughout our *Explore it* sessions this month we have followed the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness. God gave his people special laws to teach them how to love him and love one another. In today's session we will discover God's instructions for building the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle, where the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments were kept and God's presence was remembered throughout the Israelites' journey.

Each child will need:

- Pencil and paper – see 'Start it'
- The 'Ark of the Covenant' handout
- Coloured pencils or highlighters – see 'Share it'
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- Small slips of paper containing clues – see 'Start it'
- The 'Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness' sign – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Divide the children into pairs. Give each pair a pencil and some paper. One child should choose a clue from the list below without showing it to their partner. Their job is to describe the object

as clearly as they can without saying what it is, while their partner listens carefully and tries to draw it. Once the drawing is complete, the first child can reveal the answer before the pair swap roles with a new clue.

Clues:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| - Strawberry | - Bee | - Sleeping bag | - Giraffe |
| - Candle | - Lemon | - Battery | - Panda |
| - Toothpaste | - Whistle | - Mountains | - Pirate |
| - Rainbow | - Fireworks | - Library | - Sandcastle |
| - Bunk bed | - Banana | - Hospital | - Dolphin |

Ask:

- Was it easier to give instructions or to follow them?
- How did it feel when the picture didn't turn out the way you expected?

Say:

In today's Bible story God gave Moses very detailed instructions about something special he wanted the Israelites to build. The people had to listen carefully and follow God's instructions to the letter. We'll discover what they built and why it was so important.

Sing it

Say:

Our song for this week gives us a sneak peek at our Bible story.

Watch:

'Tabernacle' (with Lyrics) by Crossroads Kids' Club (2:46)



Share it

Ask:

- Does anyone in your family have a special box where they keep important memories or precious things?
- If you had a special memory box, what would you choose to keep inside it? Why?

Say:

Last week we discovered that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. They weren't just a list of rules to follow. They were God's special instructions to help his people love him and love one another.

Ask:

How many of the Ten Commandments can you remember? See if you can work together to name as many as possible.

Say:

God wanted the Ten Commandments to be looked after carefully, so he gave Moses detailed instructions to build a special box or chest called the Ark of the Covenant. The stone tablets were kept safely inside it.

God also gave instructions for a special tent called the Tabernacle, where the Ark would be kept as the Israelites travelled through the wilderness. The Tabernacle reminded the people that God was with them wherever they went.

God's instructions were so detailed that people could picture exactly what the Ark should look like. Let's see if we can do the same.

Give each child an 'Ark of the Covenant' handout.

Read Exodus 25:10-22 together. As you read, encourage the children to:

- underline or highlight important instructions
- circle key words
- draw small sketches or symbols to help them remember what each instruction means.

When they have finished reading, ask them to imagine what the Ark looked like before drawing their own version. When everyone has completed their picture, watch the clip below and compare it with their drawings.

Watch:

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

Ask:

- Which parts of your drawing were similar?
- What surprised you about the Ark?
- Why do you think God gave such careful instructions?

Say:

The Ark of the Covenant became one of the most important things the Israelites had because it held the stone tablets of God's covenant. To protect the Ark and provide a place where God's people could worship him, God also gave instructions for building the Tabernacle.

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 God, 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 entrance 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 a short clip to see what the Tabernacle may have looked like.

Stop the clip at 3:54, stopping at 'A special garment was prepared for them.'

Watch:

The Construction of the Tabernacle (Animated Bible Stories) by My First Bible (10:46)

Ask:

- How was the Tabernacle different from what you imagined?
- Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to build something so special?
- What do you think the Tabernacle reminded the people about God?

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)

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Faithfulness' sign - download from **Salvationist**

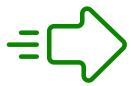
Say:

Moses showed faithfulness by carefully following God's instructions, even when they were very detailed. The Israelites were also called to be faithful by caring for the Ark and remembering that God was with them wherever they travelled.

Ask:

- Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to keep following his instructions so carefully?
- How did the Ark and the Tabernacle remind the people that God was with them?
- What helps us remember God and stay faithful to him today?





Action it

Ask the children to sit in a circle for a time of discussion. Depending on your group, you may wish to invite the children to discuss each question with the person next to them before sharing their ideas with the whole group.

Some children may struggle to think of a gift or talent. Remind them that God has made everyone differently and that gifts are not just things like singing, drawing or sport. Being kind, encouraging others, listening well, helping people and being kind, or being creative are all gifts that God can use.

Say:

Building the Ark and the Tabernacle wasn't something Moses did on his own. God gave people different skills and talents, and they used those gifts to help build everything exactly as God had instructed.

Ask:

- Who can you think of in your church who uses their gifts and talents for God? How do they use them?
- What skills and talents has God given you?
- Which gift or talent has God given you that makes you feel excited?
- How could you use one of your gifts to help others or serve God this week?
- Why do you think God wants us to use the gifts he has given us?

Say:

God created each of us differently, and every gift and talent is valuable. Whatever gifts God has given you, he can use them to make a difference in the lives of other people.



Pray it

Say:

Throughout this month we've discovered so many ways God showed kindness to his people. He rescued them from Egypt, provided food and water in the wilderness, gave them the Ten Commandments and showed them how to build the Ark and the Tabernacle so they would remember that he was always with them.

Our memory verse reminds us not to forget everything God has done for us. Let's say it together.

Memory Verse:

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

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)

Say:

The Israelites could have easily forgotten everything God had done for them, but the Ark and the Tabernacle reminded them that God was always with them. Our memory verse reminds us to do the same – to praise God and remember all his kindnesses.

Ask:

- What are some of the ways God has shown kindness to you?

Invite the children to sit quietly for a few moments. Encourage them to think of one thing they are thankful to God for today. If they would like, they can share a one sentence prayer: 'Thank you, God, for ...'

Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.



Moses and the Tabernacle

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.


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



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 discovered about the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle.

Watch:

The Ark and the Tabernacle (A Faith Kids Bible Story Video) by Faith Kids Videos

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCTNy58bFBO



Create

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



Memory verse

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

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)



Song for the week

Watch:

'Tabernacle' (with Lyrics) by Crossroads Kids' Club

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwpxYfitows

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! is the UK's only weekly Christian comic. It is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more ... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

Explore it

The Ark of the Covenant

‘Use acacia wood and build an Ark. It must be 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high. Cover the Ark of the Covenant inside and out with pure gold. And put a gold strip all around it. Make four gold rings for the Ark of the Covenant. Attach the gold rings to its four feet, two rings on each side. Then make poles from acacia wood and cover them with gold. Put the poles through the rings on the sides of the Ark. Use these poles to carry the Ark of the Covenant. These poles must always stay in the rings of the Ark of the Covenant. Do not take the poles out. Then put the two flat stones in the Ark of the Covenant. I will give you these stones on which the commands are written.

Then make a lid of pure gold for the Ark of the Covenant. This lid is the mercy seat. Make it 45 inches long and 27 inches wide. Then hammer gold to make two creatures with wings. Put one on each end of the lid. Put one creature with wings on one end of the lid. And put the other creature with wings on the other end. Attach the creatures with wings to the lid so that they will all be one piece. The creatures’ wings should be spread out over the lid. The creatures are to face each other across the lid. Put this lid on top of the Ark of the Covenant. Also put in this Ark of the Covenant the agreement which I will make with you. I will meet with you there, above the lid between the two creatures with wings. These are on the Ark of the Covenant. There I will give you all my commands for the Israelites.’ (Exodus 25:10-22 *ICB*)

Explore it

Clues

Strawberry

Mountains

Bee

Pirate

Sleeping bag

Rainbow

Giraffe

Fireworks

Candle

Library

Lemon

Sandcastle

Battery

Bunk bed

Panda

Banana

Toothpaste

Hospital

Whistle

Dolphin

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



In today's session we continue following God's special family as they finally reach the Promised Land. After Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites. Before they entered the city of Jericho, God encouraged Joshua to be strong and brave, promising to be with him wherever he went. As we explore this story we will discover that faithfulness means trusting God and following his way, even when we do not fully understand his plans. We will also think about how God can help us to be strong, courageous and faithful wherever he calls us to lead.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper – see 'Start it'
- Craft materials for the Jericho craft: paper, glue, scissors, wood skewers or sticks, sticky tape, colouring pens/pencils – see 'Action it'
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness' sign – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Ask the children to imagine that they are the mayor of a city or town (it can be the place they live). Tell them they have been given the job of creating a wall to protect the city. Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to design the perfect wall to surround their town or city.

They can add extra protective features if they would like. Encourage them to be creative.

Share the ideas together. Later in the session the children will discover how the walls of Jericho fell down following the marching and shouts of the people. You could refer back to this activity to see if any of their walls offered protection from loud noises.

If the children need ideas of what a walled city looks like, then an optional video clip is provided below.

Watch:

Top 22 Most Impressive Walled Cities in the World by GrazieVlog Ph (2:54)



Sing it

Say:

See if you can join in with the dance moves as our song for today tells us all about what happened to Joshua.

Watch:

'Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho' (The Superbook Show) by Superbook (stop at 2:11)



Share it

Ask:

- Think back to everything we have discovered during this month's *Explore it*. What can you remember about the Israelites' journey through the wilderness?

Say:

God provided food and water when the Israelites were hungry and thirsty. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments to teach his people how to love him and love one another. Last week we discovered that God gave detailed instructions for building the Ark of the Covenant to keep the stone tablets safe, and the Tabernacle where the Ark would be kept as the Israelites travelled.

Many years passed, and the Israelites continued their journey towards the land God had promised them. Sadly, Moses died before they arrived, so God chose a new leader called Joshua. Today's story begins as Joshua leads the Israelites into the Promised Land.

Ask:

- How do you think the Israelites felt when their leader Moses died?
- What worries or questions do you think they might have had about the future?
- Joshua was chosen as Israel's new leader. How do you think he might have been feeling?

Say:

Joshua had a huge responsibility. He was taking over from Moses, who had led God's people for many years. Joshua may have felt nervous or wondered if he was ready for such an important job. Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God spoke to Joshua and reminded him that he didn't need to be afraid because God would be with him wherever he went. Let's read what God said to Joshua.

Read:

'Joshua, be strong and brave! You must lead these people so they can take their land. This is the land I promised their fathers I would give them. Be strong and brave. Be sure to obey all the teachings my servant Moses gave you. If you follow them exactly, you will be successful in everything you do. Always remember what is written in the Book of the Teachings. Study it day and night. Then you will be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything. Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.'

(Joshua 1:6-9 ICB)

Ask:

- Why do you think God kept telling Joshua to be strong and brave?
- What promise did God make to Joshua?
- How do you think God's words would have helped Joshua as he became Israel's new leader?

Say:

God knew that Joshua would face difficult challenges as he led the Israelites into the Promised Land. He didn't promise that everything would be easy, but he did promise that he would be with Joshua wherever he went. Joshua's first big challenge was the city of Jericho. The city was surrounded by huge walls and seemed impossible to conquer, but God already had a plan. Let's watch what happened next.

Watch:

The Walls of Jericho - Stories of the Bible by Saddleback Kids (3:15)

Ask:

- Who did Joshua send to check out what was happening in Jericho? Who helped them stay safe while they were there?
- In the Israelite camp, Joshua was visited by the Commander of the Army of the Lord. What message did he have for Joshua?
- What did God tell Joshua and his soldiers to do?
- What part did the Ark of the Covenant play in the march? Why do you think it had such an important part to play?
- What happened as the people shouted and marched around the city walls?

Read the following Scripture passage from Joshua 6:1–11, 15–16. At the appropriate part in the story, encourage the children to march around the room seven times. If you are feeling particularly brave, you could give each child a party blower to make as much ‘trumpet noise’ as possible while they march.

Read:

Now the people of Jericho were afraid because the Israelites were near. So they closed the city gates and guarded them. No one went into the city. And no one came out.

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua. He said, ‘Look, I have given you Jericho, its king and all its fighting men. March around the city with your army once every day. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets made from horns of male sheep. Tell them to march in front of the Holy Ark. On the seventh day march around the city seven times. On that day tell the priests to blow the trumpets as they march. They will make one long blast on the trumpets. When you hear that sound, have all the people give a loud shout. Then the walls of the city will fall. And the people will go straight into the city.’

So Joshua son of Nun called the priests together. He said to them, ‘Carry the Ark of God with the Lord. Tell seven priests to carry trumpets and march in front of it.’ Then Joshua ordered the people, ‘Now go! March around the city. The soldiers with weapons should march in front of the Ark of God with the Lord.’

So Joshua finished speaking to the people. Then the seven priests began marching before the Lord. They carried the seven trumpets and blew them as they marched. The priests carrying the Ark of God with the Lord followed them. The soldiers with weapons marched in front of the priests. And armed men walked behind the Holy Ark. They were blowing their trumpets. But Joshua had told the people not to give a war cry. He said, ‘Don’t shout. Don’t say a word until the day I tell you. Then shout!’ So Joshua had the Holy Ark of the Lord carried around the city one time. Then they went back to camp for the night.

(Joshua 6:1–11 *ICB*)

On the seventh day they got up at dawn. They marched around the city seven times. They marched just as they had on the days before. But on that day they marched around the city seven times. The seventh time around the priests blew their trumpets. Then Joshua gave the command: ‘Now, shout! The Lord has given you this city!’

(Joshua 6:15–16 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Why do you think the walls of Jericho fell down?
- Do you think it happened because the Israelites made a lot of noise? Why or why not?

Say:

The walls didn’t fall because the Israelites marched around the city or shouted loudly. They fell because of God’s power. Joshua and the Israelites trusted God’s instructions, even though they may not have made sense at the time. God kept his promise and gave his people the victory.

Display the 'Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness' sign.

Say:

The Fruit of the Spirit we're thinking about today is faithfulness. Joshua showed faithfulness by trusting God's instructions, even though they probably didn't make much sense to him at the time. Instead of choosing his own plan, Joshua believed that God knew best and obeyed him.

Ask:

- Why do you think it took faithfulness for Joshua to follow God's instructions?
- Why do you think Joshua trusted God, even when God's plan didn't seem to make sense?
- What kinds of situations can make it difficult to trust God or follow his way?

Say:

Joshua showed faithfulness by trusting God, even when he couldn't see how God's plan would work. We can show faithfulness too by trusting God and following him, even when we don't know what lies ahead.

 Action it

Today you will make your own mini version of the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho.

The following clip explains how to create a mini version of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. It can be used with the whole group to explain the activity or to provide instructions for the group leader to share with the children.

Watch:

Biblecraft - Joshua & Battle of Jericho by TNG Kids (5:48)

**Pray it****Say:**

Before Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, God told him to be strong and brave because he would be with him wherever he went. Joshua didn't have to lead in his own strength. He could trust that God would help him every step of the way.

Ask:

- Where might God be asking you to be a good leader? It could be at school, at home, at church or among your friends.
- How does it help to know that God is with you wherever you go?

Say:

Think about all the ways God showed that he was with Joshua. He kept his promises, gave Joshua courage, guided him through difficult situations and helped him lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. As we remember all the kindnesses God showed to Joshua and his people, let's share our memory verse together.

Memory Verse:

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

(Psalm 103:2 *ICB*)

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you that you kept your promises to Joshua and were with him wherever he went. Thank you that you are with us too. Help us to trust you, be strong and brave, and follow you wherever you lead us. Help us never to forget your kindness and all that you have done for us. Amen.

Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.



Joshua in Jericho

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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



Discover

Watch this clip which retells the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho in a totally different way. How could you retell the story?

Watch:

Jericho (Re-Visited) by Chicago Staff Band

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkZFrXuURIk



Share

In today's Explore it session you created your own mini version of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. Using your creation, tell the people at home the story of Joshua and the Israelites as they defeated the city of Jericho.



Song for the week

Watch:

'Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho' (The Superbook Show) by Superbook (stop at 2:11)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfPOHQOc3uI



Memory verse

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

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

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



In today's session we conclude our journey through God's special family with the story of Samuel. One night, while serving in the Tabernacle, Samuel hears someone calling his name but thinks it is his teacher, Eli. When Eli realises that it is God who is speaking to Samuel, he helps him listen carefully and respond in obedience. As we explore this story, we will discover that God still guides his people today and that we can experience his peace as we rely on him and listen to what he is saying to us.

Each child will need:

- Craft items for the mini puppet show craft: lollypop sticks, cards, coloured pens/pencils, scissors, glue – see 'Action it'
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit – Peace' sign – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Say:

Today we're going to play a listening game. In today's Bible story, a young boy called Samuel heard someone calling his name, but at first he didn't realise it was God speaking to him. He had to listen very carefully. Let's see how good our listening skills are!

Watch:

Can you beat Mozi in Clap the Rhythm! (Clapping Rhythm Game for Kids) by Color Me Mozart (2:02)



Sing it

Say:

This month we've discovered so many ways God showed kindness to his special family. Before we hear today's Bible story, let's remind ourselves of our memory verse and praise God for all he has done.

Memory Verse:

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

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)

Say:

Let's sing a song together that reminds us of all the amazing things God has done and continues to do.

Watch:

'That's Who I Praise' by Kid Kardia (3:48)



Share it

Say:

Throughout this month we've been following God's special family from Moses, through the wilderness, into the Promised Land with Joshua. Many years passed, and God continued to work through his people. Today's story is all about a very special little boy called Samuel.

Samuel's parents, Hannah and Elkanah, wanted to have a child, so they travelled to the Temple to pray. Hannah wept so deeply as she prayed that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. When Eli realised she hadn't been drinking and recognised her faith, he encouraged her and prayed that God would answer her prayer.

Ask:

In what way did Hannah show that she had a strong faith in God?

Say:

Hannah returned home, and a while later her baby Samuel was born. Hannah promised God that she would bring Samuel back to the Temple to serve him. Eli was surprised to see her. Let's look in the book of 1 Samuel to find out what happened next.

Read:

She said to Eli, ‘As surely as you live, my master, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord. He will belong to the Lord all his life.’ And he worshipped the Lord there.

(1 Samuel 1:26-28 *ICB*)

Ask:

Samuel was quite young when he was sent to live at the Temple. How would you have felt if it was you?

Say:

Eli became an important person in Samuel’s life, teaching him about God and how to serve in the Temple. One night something very special happened to Samuel. Let’s watch the clip to find out what it was.

Watch:

Samuel and Eli (Slapstick Theatre) by Saddleback Kids (1:46)

Say:

In the Bible account of this story, we read that Eli and Samuel were asleep in the Lord’s Holy Tent.

Ask:

- Think back to one of our *Explore it* sessions earlier this month. What special object was kept inside the Tabernacle?

Say:

The Ark of the Covenant was kept inside the Tabernacle to remind God’s people that he was with them wherever they went. It was in this very special place that God called to Samuel. Three times God called Samuel’s name, and each time Samuel thought it was Eli calling him. But Eli finally realised Samuel was hearing the voice of God.

Read:

So he told Samuel, ‘Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, “Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in bed.

The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said, ‘Samuel, Samuel!’ Samuel said, ‘Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.’

(1 Samuel 3:9-10 *ICB*)

Say:

God spoke to Samuel in a very special way. Today, God often speaks to us through the Bible, through prayer, by his Holy Spirit and through wise Christians who help us understand his word.

Ask:

- What can we learn from the way Samuel responded to God?
- How could we do the same?

Say:

Samuel didn't have to work everything out on his own. God gave him Eli, a trusted adult who helped him understand what was happening and encouraged him to listen to God. God gives us trusted adults too. They might be parents, carers, grandparents, teachers, children's leaders or other adults who love us and want the best for us. They can help us when we have questions about God, when we need advice or when we are worried about something.

Ask:

- Who are some trusted adults you can talk to when you need help or advice?

Say:

As we grow older, God can also help us become the kind of person that others can trust. We can listen carefully, encourage others and point them towards God, just as Eli did for Samuel.

Samuel listened carefully to God and chose to obey him. Unfortunately, God had a difficult message for Samuel to deliver.

Read:

The Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am going to do something in Israel. It will shock those who hear about it. At that time I will do to Eli and his family everything I promised. I will not stop until I have finished. I told Eli I would punish his family for ever. I will do it because Eli knew his sons were evil. They spoke against me, but he did not control them. So here is what I promised Eli's family: "Your guilt will never be removed by sacrifice or offering."'

Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the Tent of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. But Eli said to him, 'Samuel, my son!'

Samuel answered, 'I am here.'

Eli asked, 'What did the Lord say to you? Don't hide it from me. May God punish you terribly if you hide from me anything he said to you.' So Samuel told Eli everything. He did not hide anything from him. Then Eli said, 'He is the Lord. Let him do what he thinks is best.'

(1 Samuel 3:11-18 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How do you think Samuel felt when he had to deliver such a difficult message to Eli?
- How did Eli respond to Samuel's difficult message from God?

Say:

Samuel listened carefully to God, trusted him and spoke the truth, even when it was difficult. Throughout this month we've discovered that God cared for his special family, guided them and kept his promises. God continued to guide his people through Samuel. Today, God still gives us trusted people who can encourage us, help us and point us towards him.

 Action it**Say:**

Today we've discovered how Samuel learned to listen to God and bravely shared God's message with Eli. Now it's your turn to retell the story!

The children are going to create a set of mini puppet characters to retell the story of Samuel and Eli. Give the children card, lollipop sticks, colouring pens, scissors, glue and any other craft materials you have available. Depending on the size of your group, the children can work in teams to produce different props and characters, and write a short script to retell the story. You could rewatch the Slapstick Theatre (Samuel and Eli) clip to recap the story if required. Give the children time to make and rehearse their puppet show and then share it with the rest of the group.

**Pray it****Say:**

Samuel was confused when he heard someone calling his name in the middle of the night. He didn't know what was happening at first, but Eli helped him understand that God was speaking to him.

Display the 'Fruit of the Spirit – Peace' sign

Say:

The Fruit of the Spirit we're thinking about today is peace. As we rely on God and listen to what he is saying to us, he helps us to experience his peace.

- As you listen and sing along to this song, think about what it teaches us about listening to God and trusting him each day.

Watch:

'Listen to the Word of the Lord' (Lyric Video) by Keith and Kristyn Getty (2:55)

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you that you know each one of us by name, just as you knew Samuel. Help us to listen to you through your word, trust your promises and rely on you each day. When we feel worried, confused or unsure, fill our hearts with your peace and help us to follow wherever you lead. Amen.

Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.



Samuel Learned to Listen

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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



Listen

Listen to our 'Pray it' song throughout this week. Spend a few quiet moments asking God to help you listen to him and guide you each day.

Watch:

'Listen to the Word of the Lord' (Lyric Video) by Keith and Kristyn Getty

www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4SK2GR4OW8



Play

Plan to go for a walk with the people at home. Before you go, write down six sounds that you might hear on a walk. Take the list with you and listen for the sounds as you go on your walk.



Memory verse

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

(Psalm 103:2 ICB)



Song for the week

Watch:

'That's Who I Praise' by Kid Kardia (3:48)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SamNfOUAmyA

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**