

A Home for God

Exodus 25:1-9; 35:4-9, 20-29; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 343-358

What is the most precious thing that you own? Is it a toy or a book or perhaps a pet? How would you feel if you had to share that with someone? How would you feel if our pastor asked you to bring it next week and give it to God?

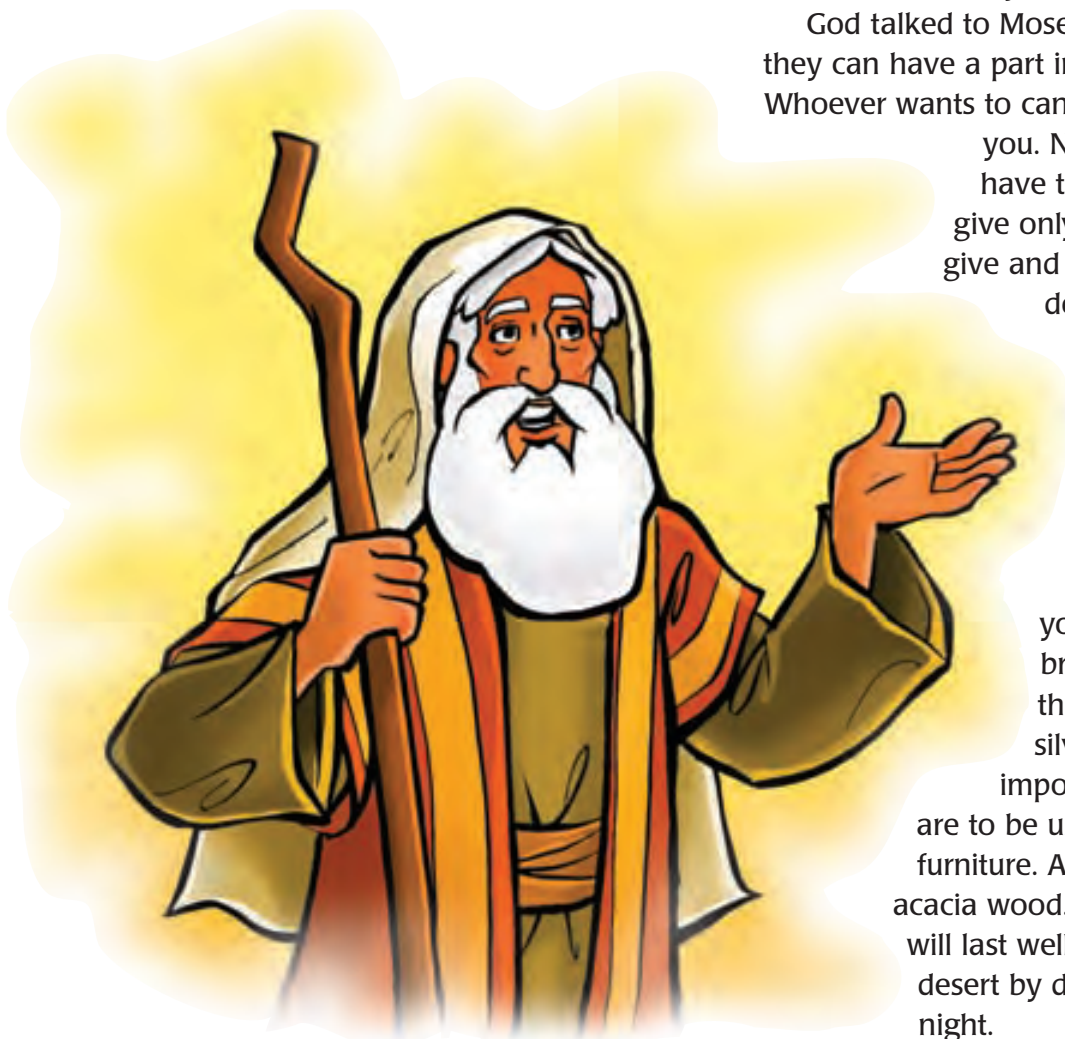
The Israelites could see God's presence every day. They looked at the cloud that led them during the day and remembered that God was with them. They saw the pillar of

fire every night and felt the warmth of God's presence. However, that was not enough. They needed a special place where they could meet God. And God wanted to meet with them. He wanted His special people to know that He was with them all the time, that they could come and worship Him. God wanted to have a home in the Israelite camp.

God knew exactly what His home should be like. He gave the building plan to Moses. Moses knew exactly what to do.

God talked to Moses: "Tell everyone that they can have a part in making My house. Whoever wants to can bring an offering to you. No one must feel they have to give. They should give only what they want to give and what they can afford. I don't want anyone to give unless they really want to. What is important to Me is not what people give, but that they are happy to give it.

"The people will ask you what they should bring. Tell them special things are needed. Gold, silver, and bronze are important. These metals are to be used when making the furniture. All the wood must be acacia wood. This wood is strong. It will last well in the heat of the desert by day and the cold at night.



The Message

I worship God when I bring my gifts to Him.

Memory Verse

“Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them”

(Exodus 25:8, NIV).

“My home will be colorful. People bringing wool from their sheep should spin it and dye it blue, purple, and scarlet. You will need cloth and skins to make the walls of My holy place. Have the people bring fine linen, goat skins, ram skins dyed red, and sea cow hides.

“My home must have lights. Use olive oil to light them. For some of the services you will need spices for the anointing oil and sweet smelling incense. I will explain to you how to use these things. You also need onyx stones and other precious stones for the priest’s special clothes.”

Many people gladly brought jewelry and other beautiful things the Egyptians gave them when they left Egypt. A lovely place to worship God was better than keeping the jewelry for themselves. The most valuable things they had were given to God. He would have the best and most beautiful place in camp.

The Israelites had seen God’s power. They knew His plan. And they wanted to be able to praise and worship Him in a special way, in a special place. We can praise and worship Him in the same way today. God still gives His people opportunities to give to Him. He wants us to give with a happy and cheerful heart, just as the Israelites gave.



S A B B A T H

READ Go with your family to a nearby church and read your lesson story together. How is your church like God's home that the Israelites helped build? How is it different?

DO Teach Exodus 25:8 to your family.

SING Sing "The Wise May Bring Their Learning" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 148).

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Exodus 25:7 again. Where were onyx stones and other precious gems to be mounted? Together, read Exodus 39:1-21 to learn more about it. For more information, see *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 350, 351.

DO Arrange your memory verse words and say the verse for your family. Thank God for your church.



Acacia
or shittim
wood is very
beautiful, hard
and long-
lasting.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Exodus 25:1-9. Search your house to collect things that could have been used to build the sanctuary. Could God have built the sanctuary without the Israelites' help? Why did He ask the people to supply the materials?

DO Write the memory verse in big letters on paper. Color the letters. Cut the words apart. Scramble the words, then arrange them in order.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read Exodus 35:20-29 with your family. Name five things the Israelites brought as offerings.

DO List some things God has given to you to give. What will you save each week for the special church project planned in Sabbath School? Make a special offering box or decorate an envelope in which to put your gifts.

DO Say your memory verse to an adult. Before prayer, sing "Father, Accept This Gift" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 147).

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read Malachi 3:10 during worship. If you earn or receive some money, ask a family member to help you decide on your tithe. Put it in a tithe envelope and fill out the envelope.

DO Try to find out what an onyx stone looks like.

DO Review the memory verse together. Then sing "We Give Our Gifts" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 146). Thank God for His gifts.

THURSDAY

READ Have a Bible Sword Drill for family worship. Find, read, and answer the following texts and questions:

1. Who owns everything? (Psalm 24:1)
2. What else does God own? (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)
3. What has God asked us to do with what He owns? (Luke 6:38)
4. What part of our earnings should we return to God? (Malachi 3:10)
5. What kind of giving does God love? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

PRAY Ask God to bless the gifts you bring to Him.

FRIDAY

SHARE For evening worship, tell your Bible story in your own words.

DO Say or sing your memory verse together.

READ Read Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:7 again. Ask your parent(s) to tell how God blesses their money that is left after tithe and offerings.

DO Put your tithe and offerings with your Bible to take to church tomorrow.

PRAY Thank God that you have gifts to give Him.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Use the code to discover the best attitude when giving to God.

A	C	D	E	F	G
1	2	3	4	5	6
H	I	L	N	P	R
7	8	9	10	11	12
T	U	V	W	Y	
13	14	15	16	17	

