

References

Exodus 31:1-11;
36:1-7; *Prophets and
Kings*, pp. 62, 63



Memory Verse

“Serve wholeheartedly,
as if you were serving
the Lord, not men”
(Ephesians 6:7, NIV).

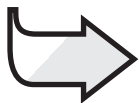


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God gives
each of them
special abilities to use for Him.

Feel enthusiastic to use
their abilities in God’s work.

Respond by helping in their
Sabbath School or church.



The Message

I worship God when I
use my abilities to
do His work.

Help Wanted!

Monthly Theme

We respond to God’s goodness by worshiping Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Israelites bring more precious and costly love offerings than are needed for the building of the tabernacle—so they are told to stop. God chooses Bezalel and Oholiab to lead out in the building of the sanctuary. He gives them and their helpers special skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.

This is a lesson about worship.

Giving gifts to God is a form of worship. Gifts can be money and other material things, or skills and abilities. When our skills and abilities are consecrated to God, they are enhanced and blessed by Him. He not only asks us to offer our abilities for His work, He wants us to use them for Him.

Teacher Enrichment

“Creativity is a God-given ability to take something ordinary and make it into something special. . . . Every single human being is creative. The creative spirit is part of our heritage as children of the One who created all things. And nurturing our creativity is part of our responsibility as stewards of God’s good gifts” (Emilie Barnes, *NIV Women’s Devotional Bible*, p. 93).

“The willing service and joyous self-denial of the tabernacle workers is seldom met with. But this is the only spirit that should actuate the followers of Jesus. . . .

“Unselfish devotion and a spirit of sacrifice have always been and always will be the first requisite of acceptable service. Our Lord and Master designs that not one thread of selfishness shall be woven into His work. Into our efforts we are to bring the tact and skill, the exactitude and wisdom, that the God of perfection required of the builders of the earthly tabernacle; yet in all our labors we are to remember that the greatest talents or the most splendid services are acceptable only when self is laid upon the altar, a living, consuming sacrifice” (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 65).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 6.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Tool Time</i> B. <i>Build a House</i>	box of tools house floor plan, paper and pencils/pens, small basket or other container
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	<i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container representing this quarter's world division none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	box of tools, actors, Bible-times costumes, line drawing of tabernacle (see p. 142), fur and cloth scraps, metal objects to represent gold, brass, silver paper, marker, Bibles Bibles, dictionary
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Talent Spin and Worship Tree</i>	"worship tree," soda bottle, small slips of paper, pencils, colorful ribbon or yarn, scissors, Bible
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Worship Work</i>	chalk or marker board, chalk or marker

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- box of tools (see activity)

A. Tool Time

Bring to Sabbath School a box of different tools, such as kitchen, artistic, sewing, or construction tools. Invite the children to hold the tools and tell what they are used for. Ask: **Which of these tools do you have at home? Have you used any of them? If so, for what purpose? How could you use these tools to worship God?** Allow discussion time. **Which tools are you able to use now? Which might you use when you grow up?**

Debriefing

Say: **God not only wants us to offer our abilities to Him, He wants us to use our abilities for Him. What abilities has He given you to use for Him? Share with us how you use your abilities for His church. How do you feel when you use your talents and abilities for God? Let's say today's message:**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I USE MY ABILITIES TO DO HIS WORK.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- house floor plan
- paper and pens/pencils
- small basket or other container

B. Build a House

Bring a floor plan of a house to class or draw a simple floor plan of your house or church. Show the floor plan to the class and point out the various rooms. Ask: **What would be needed to build this house (or church)?** Allow discussion time. **Who would probably build this?** (carpenter, construction worker, plumber, electrician, etc.) **What could you do to help?**

Distribute paper and pen or pencil to each child. Have the children write or draw something to describe a talent or ability they have or want to have when they grow up, something they can use for God. Allow time. List responses where all may see.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who gave us these talents and abilities? What does He want us to do with them? Do we all have the same abilities and talents? Why?** Place a small basket or other container on the floor. Invite the children to fold their papers and place them in the container IF they want to use their ability and talent for God. Have the children form a circle around the container, then offer a prayer dedicating their abilities to God. Afterward, have the children sit quietly, then say: **Our message for today tells us:**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I USE MY ABILITIES TO DO HIS WORK.

Say that with me.

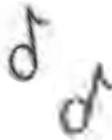
Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

"Lord, I Love to Stamp and Shout" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 56)

"I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 124)

"We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129)



Mission

Use *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **Our mission story helped us to learn more about the needs of** (the part of the world that will receive the offering). **How can they be helped?** (By sending money offerings, by sending missionaries with various abilities, etc.) **You don't have to wait until you grow up to help; you can give some money right now to help them.** Collect the offering.

You Need:

- offering container used last week



Prayer

Say: **Let's tell Jesus that we want to worship Him by using our abilities for Him.** Ask the children to take turns saying to Jesus, "I want to worship You by using my ability to (name of ability) for Your work." (Some children may need to repeat this after you.) Have a teacher close by praying for the requests.

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- box of tools (see activity)
- children (silent actors)
- Bible-times costumes
- line drawing of the tabernacle (see p. 142)
- fur scraps (optional)
- cloth scraps or pretty scarves
- metal objects to represent gold, brass, silver

Experiencing the Story

Characters: at least 2-3 Israelites to “bring gifts” for the tabernacle; Moses, Bezalel, Oholiab; at least 2-3 workers to “build” the tabernacle. (All dressed in Bible-times costumes.) Bezalel holds a construction tool; Oholiab holds a sewing tool.

Setting the Scene

Show a box that contains many different tools, such as kitchen, artistic, farming, gardening, sewing, or construction tools. Allow the children to hold and touch the tools. (See Readiness Activity A.) Ask them to imagine how some of the tools could have been used to build the first church, the tabernacle, God’s wilderness sanctuary.

Introduce the story by saying: **How could these tools be used to worship God today?**

Read and tell the story.

God gave the Israelites a plan for building His tabernacle. First they collected materials. *[Actors act out bringing building materials.]* The people happily gave their gifts. *[Actors smile as they bring their building gifts.]* They gave their silver, gold, and brass, as well as their best material and animal skins.

It was hard to describe their feelings of joy and happiness when they heard that God loved them so much that He wanted to be with them. They called God’s tabernacle home His sanctuary. They could talk to God anytime, just as we can. But God knew it was important for the Israelites to have a place where they could meet with Him. The Israelites had lived in Egypt so long, they knew more about the Egyptian gods than

about the true living God who had rescued them. Without a tabernacle it would be very easy for them to forget God. The tabernacle was God’s way of reminding them that He was with them all the time.

Everyone gave the best things they owned for God’s home. *[Actors continue to act out bringing building tools and materials.]* In fact, they gave so much that God said to Moses: “Tell them to stop. *[Moses holds up his hand toward the Israelites bringing gifts and shakes his head.]* We have enough to build the tabernacle.”

God wanted His house to be very special. The plans that He gave to Moses for the workers had many details. *[Moses holds up a line drawing of the tabernacle.]* When it was time to choose who was going to do what, God talked to Moses. “I have chosen two special people to help with the building, Bezalel and Oholiab. Bezalel comes from the tribe of Judah. *[Indicate Bezalel with a construction tool in his hand.]* Oholiab comes from the tribe of Dan. *[Indicate Oholiab with a sewing tool in his hand.]* I have blessed these men in a special way. I have given them skills and abilities so they will be able to work with all kinds of crafts. No one will be able to make things as well as they can.

“You will need many other skilled people to help with the building. Everyone working on the building will receive an extra blessing. I will make their talents and abilities much better than before.

“Remember to make all the things I showed you. Follow all the plans for the Meeting Tent and everything inside, including the ark and its special cover. When the ark is finished, put the Ten Commandments inside.”

Everyone worked together. *[Tabernacle builders “work” with their tools, smiling.]* Happiness filled their hearts as they worked. Just as God promised, He

blessed their talents and abilities.

When we use our talents and abilities for God, He will bless them and improve them, just as He blessed the people working on the tabernacle, His sanctuary.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Have you ever helped to build a church? If so, how did you feel about taking part in such a project? How did the Israelites feel about helping with the tabernacle project?** (happy, blessed by God) **What different abilities did they use?** (making furniture, curtains, clothes for priests, etc.)

What different abilities did you or could you use in helping a church building project or other work for God? Did you know that you worship God when you help to build Him a church or do other things to work for Him? Always remember that . . .



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I USE MY ABILITIES TO DO HIS WORK.

Memory Verse

Form four groups. Place them as far apart as possible. Give each group a paper on which you have written one

part of the memory verse. (See below.)

Have the groups call out their part of the verse in sequence. Switch the papers and repeat. Continue until all know the entire verse. Then have the groups join to say the entire verse.

For Write

- Part 1 Serve wholeheartedly,
- Part 2 as if you were serving the Lord,
- Part 3 not men.
- Part 4 Ephesians 6:7

Bible Study

Invite a child to look up the word *artisan* in a dictionary and read its definition.

Say: **Our Bible lesson mentions various artisans and craftsmen.**

Choose children to read the following Bible verses and name the type of artisan or craftsman mentioned in each text.

Exodus 31:1-4 (gold, silver and bronze craftsman)

Exodus 31:5 (jeweler/precious stone cutter and wood carver)

Exodus 31:6-9 (tent making, furniture making, goldsmith)

Exodus 31:10 (tailor)

Exodus 31:11 (perfume and incense manufacturer)

Debriefing

Ask: **Who gave Bezalel and Oholiab and the other workers the ability to be good craftsmen?** (God)

Who gives you your abilities and blesses them? (God) **What God-given skills can you use for Him?** Take answers.

Can you remember a time when one of your skills got better when you used it for God? ("I play the piano for Sabbath School and I'm improving," or "I write letters to encourage people, and I am a better writer now," etc.) **Let's say our lesson message together:**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I USE MY ABILITIES TO DO HIS WORK.

You Need:

- Bibles
- dictionary

You Need:

- paper
- marker
- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- “worship tree”
- soda bottle
- small slips of paper
- pencils
- colorful ribbon or yarn
- scissors
- Bible

Talent Spin and Worship Tree

During the week, prepare a “Worship Tree.” This could be a branch held by plaster of paris or stuck in a bucket of rocks, or a large plant that looks like a tree.

Have the children sit in a circle. Put a small soda bottle in the middle of the circle. Say: **We are going to play “Talent Spin” with this bottle. I will spin this bottle. Whomever it is pointing to when it stops is to name a talent or ability and tell how it can be used for God. You can mention, if you want, what you would like to be when you grow up.**

When the time for this activity is almost up, call on the children who did not get chosen by the bottle to answer.

Invite the children to write what they mentioned on small slips of paper. Tell them to sign their name. Roll each paper up like a scroll. Tie it with colorful ribbon

or yarn. Then attach it to one of the branches of the “Worship Tree.”

Debriefing

Say: **The Israelites brought their offerings to God to build His sanctuary. This “worship tree” with its hanging “talents and abilities” will be here for a few weeks to remind us that we have offered our talents and abilities to God. Who gives us our talents and abilities? (God) Let’s read Exodus 31:1-3.** Read the text aloud.

What is the next step after offering to God the abilities that He gives us? (actually using them for Him) How many of you want to worship God by using your abilities for Him? How do you plan to do that now? How do you plan to do that when you grow up? (Accept answers.) Let’s say our message:



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I USE MY ABILITIES TO DO HIS WORK.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Worship Work

Ahead of time, find out from your pastor, head elder, or deacon, some of the smaller tasks that need to be done around your place of worship. Where all can see, make a list of these. Title it, "Some Ways to Worship God With My Abilities." Ideas: emptying trash, picking up bulletins and other things after Sabbath service, mowing the lawn, pulling weeds, shoveling snow, or cleaning chairs. Make a long list.

Ask the children in which areas they would like to use their abilities to worship God. Encourage the children to pick at least one task.

Debriefing

Discuss when the class members will do the tasks they picked. You may also want to have a group activity such as doing yardwork on Sunday. Ask: **What do you think about worshipping God by using your abilities for His church?** (Accept answers.) **Let's say today's message again:**



I WORSHIP GOD WHEN I USE MY ABILITIES TO DO HIS WORK.

Closing

Ask the children what they learned about worship in today's lesson that they did not know before.

As the closing prayer, sing together "We Give Our Gifts" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 146).

You Need:

- chalk or marker board
- chalk or marker

Help Wanted!

References

Exodus 31:1-11; 36:1-7; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 62, 63

Memory Verse

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” (Ephesians 6:7, NIV).

The Message

I worship God when I use my abilities to do His work.

Think of something that you have made. It doesn't have to be very big. Did you have a pattern or a plan and directions to make it? Or did you just make it from your imagination? Some things need a pattern or a plan. God knew plans were important when the Israelites started to build the tabernacle, a sanctuary for Him.

The Israelites found it hard to describe their feelings of joy and happiness! God loved them so much that He wanted a home in their camp! They called God's tabernacle home His sanctuary.

They could talk to God anytime, just as we can. But God knew it was important for the Israelites to have a place where they could meet with Him. The Israelites had lived in Egypt a long time. They knew more about Egyptian gods than about the living God who had rescued them. It would be very easy for them to forget God. The tabernacle was God's way of reminding them that He was there all the time.

First the Israelites collected the materials they would need. They happily gave their gifts.



Everyone gave the best things they owned for God's home. They brought silver, gold, and brass, as well as their best material and animal skins. In fact, they gave so much that God said to Moses: "Tell them to stop. We have enough." Everyone wanted to help with the building project. From the oldest to the youngest, everyone wanted to do something.

God wanted His house to be very special. He gave plans to Moses for the workers. He described everything in great detail.

Soon it was time to choose who was going to do what. God talked to Moses: "Building My sanctuary is the most important thing you will do. I have chosen two special people to help. Bezalel and Oholiab come from different tribes. Bezalel is Uri's son, Hur's grandson, and comes from the tribe of Judah. Oholiab comes from the tribe of Dan. He is Ashisamach's son. I have blessed these men in a special way. They will be able to work with all kinds of crafts. They can follow the plans I have given you. No one will be able to make things as well as they can.

"You will need many other skilled people to help. Everyone who works on the building will receive an extra blessing from Me. I will make their talents and abilities much better than before.

"Remember to make all the things I showed you. I gave you the plans for the Meeting Tent and everything inside, including the ark and its special cover. When the ark is finished, put the Ten Commandments inside."

The Israelites worked together to build God's tabernacle home. Happiness filled

their hearts as they worked. Just as God promised, He blessed their talents and abilities.

Our church is like the Israelites' tabernacle. We come here to worship God and praise Him for everything He does for us. When we use our talents and abilities for God, He will bless them and improve them.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, go outdoors with your family and look for some of God's creatures. Try to figure out what special ability some creatures have. Tell three new things that you learned during your walk. Thank God for them.
- Sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 51).
- Find a quiet place and read your lesson story together. Then read 1 Peter 4:10.

Sunday

- With your family, make some cookies. Use a cookie cutter to make different shapes.
- Talk with your family about lessons you can learn from the cookies. (Each cookie is different. So are we, with different God-given gifts and abilities.)
- Read Romans 12:4-8 with your parents. What does this mean?
- Read the memory verse. What does this verse mean to you? Ask God to help you serve Him.

Monday

- For family worship read Exodus 31:1-11. What two men did God fill with His Spirit to make beautiful things?
- List some things you are good at. How can you worship God with these? (See Matthew 25:40.)
- Say your memory verse. Thank God for His gifts.

Tuesday

- During family worship, ask your parents about their work. How did they prepare for it? How did God lead them to it? What do they like about it? How does their work help God's church? Read together Colossians 3:23.
- Draw a picture of what you can do for God now. Draw another picture of what you want to do when you grow up.
- Say or sing your memory verse.

Wednesday

- For worship, read Ecclesiastes 9:10, first half. Tell what this means.
- Ask your family to help you make a shaved crayon picture: Trace your hand on construction paper. Sprinkle crayon shavings within the hand tracing. (Crayons can be shaved with a blunt knife.) Put waxed paper on top of the shavings. Ask an adult to iron it until the shavings melt. Cool and pull off the waxed paper. Sign your name and write: "I offer my skills and abilities to God." Then review your memory verse.
- Sing "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 57).

Thursday

- Read Exodus 36:1 for family worship. Skill and ability are important to do God's work. What else is important?
- Have someone read to you the following instructions: Stand in a square marked on the floor. Turn left. Take 4 steps forward. Turn right. Take 2 steps forward. Turn right. Take 1 step forward. Then take 2 steps sideways to the right. Then take 3 steps forward. Did you end up in the same place you began? If you did, you followed the directions exactly.
- Ask God to help you always to follow His directions.

Friday

- For worship, tell this week's Bible lesson in your own words. What three new things did you learn from this lesson? Take turns reading: Deuteronomy 6:5, Romans 12:1, and Colossians 3:17. What do these verses mean?
- Plan together how you and your family can use your abilities for God tomorrow.
- Sing "I Want to Be" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 124). Thank God for the abilities He has given to your family.