

Too Many Offerings

Exodus 35:4–36:7; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 343–349

Enough! Enough!” laughed Dad. “I have enough on my plate already.”

Mother smiled. “What about you, Josh? Do you have enough on your plate?”

Josh grinned. He knew what his mother was thinking. He would eat everything on his plate and ask for more! And she would tease him about eating like a horse!

When is enough enough? A long time ago, Moses told the Israelites, “Don’t bring anymore. We have more than enough.” Here’s how it happened.

Quick,” called Father breathlessly as he stuck his head inside the tent. “Moses has an important announcement to make. The entire Israelite community is gathering.”

Mother dropped what she was doing and grabbed the baby. Leah was close on her heels, followed by her younger brothers Zibeon and Gershon. The family was quickly joined by other Israelite families, all gathering to hear what Moses had to say.

Soon Moses stood up to speak. The low murmur of the crowd stopped. “God has given me instructions for a Tent of Meeting,” Moses began. “A special place where God will meet

with us and where we will worship Him. We will need a lot of fine materials.

“Only those who want to should contribute,” continued Moses. “We will need gold, silver, and bronze. We will need yarn in blue, purple, and scarlet. We need fine linen. We need animal skins, acacia wood, olive oil, spices, and gemstones. You should donate only if your heart has been moved



by God. Your gifts will be an offering to Him.

“We will also need skilled craftsmen of every kind,” continued Moses. “Spinners and weavers to help us prepare the materials.

The Message

I worship God
with my offerings.

Memory Verse

**"I will sacrifice a
freewill offering to you;
I will praise your name,
O Lord, for it is good"**
(Psalm 54:6, NIV).

People who can work in gold, silver, and bronze. We need people who know how to cut and set stones. Carpenters to work with wood. Spinners to spin goat hair and linen. And weavers to make curtains and the special garments the priests will wear.

"Bezalel of the tribe of Judah and Oholiab of the tribe of Dan will be in charge of the workers and the work," Moses went on. "God's Spirit has filled them with skill and knowledge and the ability to teach others to do this special work."

As soon as Moses stopped talking, a buzz of excitement spread through the crowd. "Mother," Leah began excitedly, "we can help in a lot of ways! You're one of the best spinners and weavers in the whole camp. I'll watch the baby so you can spin."

"And we have a bronze mirror and comb," chimed in Zibeon. "Moses said they need bronze."

"And Leah and mother have gold jewelry," added Gershon.

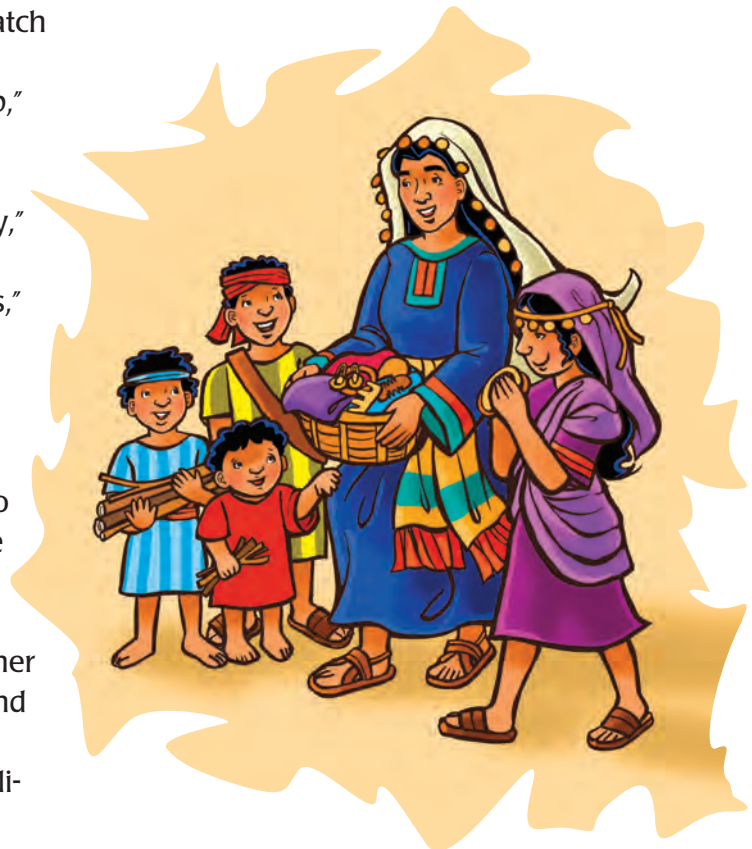
"We do have gold earrings and bracelets," agreed Leah. Her best friend in Egypt had given her the bracelets the night they had left.

The next day the family excitedly gathered their items. Together they took them to the place where the building materials were being collected. Piles were beginning to form. Gold jewelry here, silver over there. Bronze bowls and other utensils a little farther on. Animal skins, acacia wood, goat hair, and linen each had their own stack. Excitement filled the air, making it feel like a joyous holiday.

Every day Leah and Zibeon and Gershon walked past the growing piles of materials.

Then one day the builders told Moses, "We don't need any more materials. We have more than enough now." So Moses told the people to stop donating.

The people of Israel had come through. They loved God very much. They wanted to see the tabernacle built too.



S A B B A T H

DO If the weather is nice, walk with your family and sit outdoors by a nearby church. Read Exodus 35:4–36:7 together. Then think about your church. What can you give or do to make it a better place to worship God?

SING Sing together “What Joy It Is to Worship Here” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 142). Then thank God for your church.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family. What is a sacrifice? What is a freewill offering?

S U N D A Y

READ During worship, read your lesson story together. What did the Israelites give to help build the sanctuary? Make a list. Then list things your family could give to make your church a special place for God.

SHARE Show your family your “My Offering for God” bag from Sabbath School. Be sure it’s OK to collect things in it.

SING Sing together “God Made Our Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 57). Then thank God for people who support your church.

M O N D A Y

SHARE In your own words, tell your lesson story to your family. Ask each one to tell about a time they sacrificed something for God. Would they do it again? Why? What is the difference between a freewill offering and a sacrifice offering? Invite each one to put something in your “My Offering for God” bag.

DO Ask the men and boys in your family to say the first part of the memory verse. Then ask the women and girls to say the last part together.

T U E S D A Y

DO Before worship today draw a picture to show what it was like when the Israelites brought things for the tabernacle. Show your picture to your family and tell them about it. Keep adding things to your “My Offering for God” bag.

READ Ask someone to read Exodus 35:4 through 36:7. What kind of craftsmen were needed? What kind would be needed to build a church today? What offerings would be needed? Thank God for people who make your church beautiful.

The “Tent of Meeting” is sometimes called the “sanctuary.” That word in the Bible always means a place to worship God, not idols.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ For worship read Psalm 54:6 together. Read the first part of verse 7 to find out why David wrote this. From what “troubles” has God delivered your family? Thank Him for His goodness.

SING Sing together “God Is So Good” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13).

DO Pray a “popcorn” prayer. The leader prays “Thank You, God, for . . .,” then each person adds something for which they are thankful. At the end everyone says, “Thank You, God, for everything.”



THURSDAY

READ During worship, read 2 Corinthians 9:7 together. Have someone write the last four words on a big sheet of paper. Ask each person to add a picture to show what they will cheerfully give God this week. The others should guess what it is.

DO Say your memory verse together. Sing a praise song, then thank God for the leaders in your church.

FRIDAY

DO Ask your family to help you act out your Bible story for worship today. Who will weave? Spin? Work with wood? Who will be Moses? What will that person say?

DO Count the items in your "My Offerings for God" bag. How many? What kind of things? Remember to take them to Sabbath School tomorrow. Sing together "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139).

DO Pray that you will always be willing to give offerings freely.

Worshipful Word Search

PUZZLE

Directions: One way we can worship God is to give generously of our time, talents, and possessions. Look for the following that were given in love to build a tabernacle where God could be worshipped. Look up, down, and sideways. Circle the words you find.

