Preschool–Grade 5

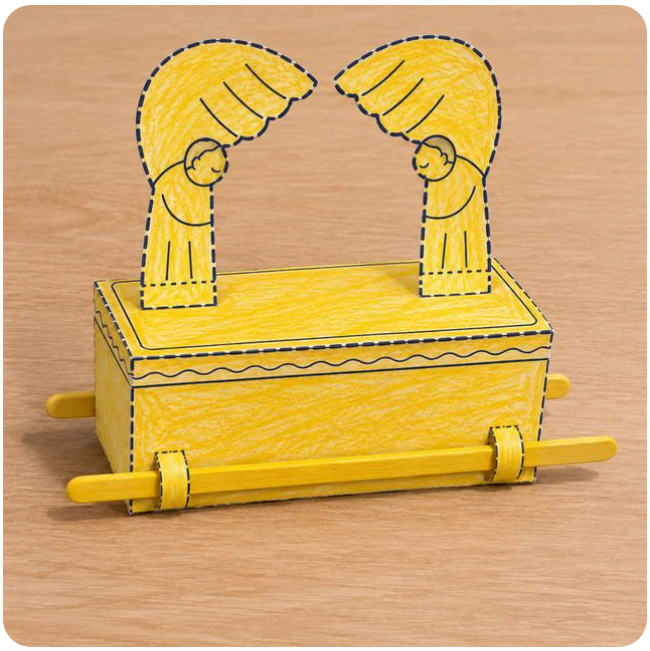
Ark of the Covenant Craft

There I will meet with thee · Exodus 25:10–22 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

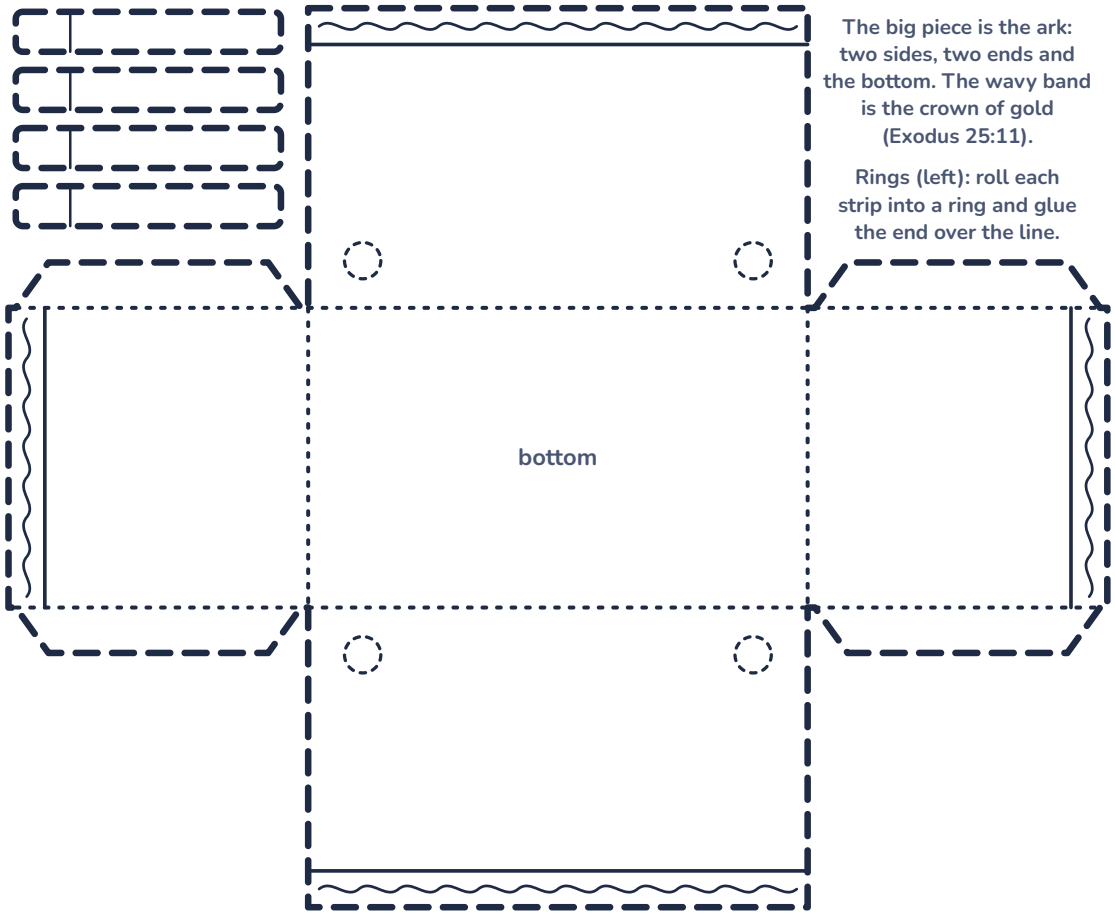
Both levels are a little paper ark, colored gold: a box with a gold border round the top (the crown of gold, Exodus 25:11), a gold lid on top (the mercy seat, 25:17), four gold rings, and two craft stick staves through the rings to carry it (25:12–14). Medium (left): the ark. Harder (right): the same ark with the two gold cherubims on the two ends of the mercy seat, facing each other with their wings on high (25:18–20). The two tables of the testimony are inside the ark (25:16, 25:21).

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Name: _____

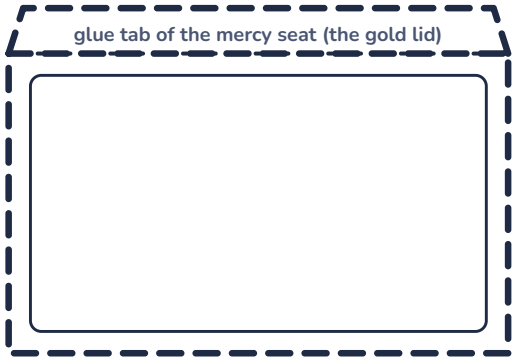
✂ Cut on the dashed lines

The ark: color every piece yellow (gold). Cut on the dashed lines. Fold on the dotted lines, colored side out.



The big piece is the ark: two sides, two ends and the bottom. The wavy band is the crown of gold (Exodus 25:11).

Rings (left): roll each strip into a ring and glue the end over the line.



And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Exodus 25:22 (KJV)

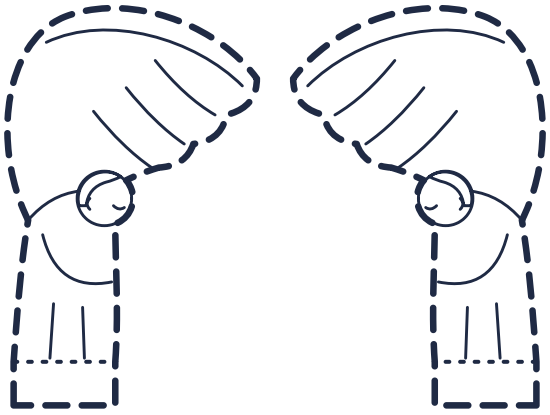
verse strip: glue it inside the ark, on the bottom

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

The two cherubims and the testimony (harder level)

Wings on high, faces toward the mercy seat (Exodus 25:20) · the testimony in the ark (25:21)



the two cherubims: color them all yellow (gold)
glue each tab on one end of the mercy seat



the testimony, two tables of stone:
color them light gray

How to add the cherubims and the testimony

1. Make the ark from page 2 first.
2. Color the two cherubims all yellow, for gold, wings and robes too (Exodus 25:18). Color the two tables of stone light gray.
3. Cut out the two cherubims and the two tables on the dashed lines.
4. Fold each cherub's tab on the dotted line. Glue one tab on each end of the mercy seat, with the two cherubims facing each other, so their wings reach up high over the mercy seat and their faces look down toward it (Exodus 25:18–20).
5. Lift the mercy seat and put the two tables of stone inside the ark (25:16, 25:21). Later God gave Moses "two tables of testimony, tables of stone" (31:18). Close the lid.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/ark-of-the-covenant-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), two craft sticks per child, yellow crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a light gray crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out every piece ahead of time. Try one ark yourself first, so you can show the kids how the box folds up.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color the flat pieces and two craft sticks yellow. A helper folds and glues the box, the rings and the lid. Kids slide in the staves and carry the ark with a friend.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, fold and glue the ark, then slide in the staves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the ark like the medium level. Then glue the two gold cherubims on the ends of the mercy seat, facing each other, and put the two tables of the testimony inside the ark, from page 3 (Exodus 25:16–21). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color every piece on the page yellow, for gold: the ark, the four ring strips and the mercy seat. Color the two craft sticks yellow too. They are the staves.
2. **Cut:** cut out the ark, the four ring strips, the mercy seat and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Verse:** turn the ark over, colored side down, and glue the verse strip in the middle of the bottom. It will be inside the ark.
4. **Box:** fold up the two sides and the two ends on the dotted lines, with the colored side outside. Glue each tab inside a side, so the ark is an open box.
5. **Rings:** roll each ring strip into a ring and glue the end over the line. Glue the rings on the four ring circles, two on each side, near the corners (Exodus 25:12).
6. **Mercy seat:** fold the mercy seat's glue tab down and glue it inside the top of one side, so the mercy seat lies on top like a lid that lifts (25:21).
7. **Staves:** slide one craft stick through the two rings on each side (25:14). Now carry the ark by the staves, one friend in front and one behind.
8. **Verse:** lift the mercy seat and read the verse inside the ark together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who did God tell how to make the ark? *(Moses, Exodus 25:1, 25:10)*
- What wood was the ark made of? *(Shittim wood, 25:10)*
- Color it gold. Where was the gold? *(Within and without, inside and outside, 25:11)*
- Count the rings. How many were there? *(Four, two on each side, 25:12)*
- What did the staves do? *(They went through the rings so the ark could be carried, 25:14; they were never taken out, 25:15)*
- What went inside the ark? *(The testimony, 25:16; the two tables of stone, 31:18)*
- What was the gold lid called? *(The mercy seat, 25:17)*
- What did God say He would do above the mercy seat? *(Meet with Moses and commune, talk, with him, 25:22)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** an **ark** here is a chest, not a boat; **shittim wood** is a kind of wood; a **cubit** is about 18 inches; **overlay** means cover; the **crown of gold round about** is a gold border all around; **staves** are carrying poles; **borne** means carried; the **testimony** is what God gave to put in the ark; the **mercy seat** is the gold lid; **commune** means talk together.
- **What the Bible says:** the ark was 2½ cubits long and 1½ cubits wide and high, about 45 by 27 by 27 inches (Exodus 25:10). The craft ark keeps those shapes, smaller. The mercy seat was pure gold, the same length and width as the ark (25:17), and the two cherubims were of beaten gold, made of the mercy seat itself, one on each end (25:18–19).
- **The cherubims:** they were gold, of beaten work, one on each end of the mercy seat (25:18–19). Their wings stretched up on high, covering the mercy seat, and their faces looked one to another, toward the mercy seat (25:20). The craft draws them as young, beardless robed figures with short hair, facing each other with their heads bowed toward the lid. The Bible doesn't say more about how they looked, so keep them simple and all gold. The tables of stone go inside the ark, not on top (25:16). The Bible doesn't describe how the crown of gold looked, so the craft draws it as a simple wavy band.
- **No people are drawn, and never God:** God said He would meet with Moses above the mercy seat (25:22); it is told, not drawn.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and have a helper fold and glue the boxes. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let the kids carry their arks two by two, one in front and one behind.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free ark of the covenant lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/ark-of-the-covenant.

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