Preschool–Grade 6

The Tabernacle

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God wants to be with His people.
Bible passage: Exodus 25 and 40. Read Exodus 25:1–9 and 40:33–38 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "that I may dwell among them" *Exodus 25:8 (KJV)*. The old word **dwell** means live: God wanted to live with His people.
You need: a Bible, a box, yellow paper squares (one for each child), a cotton ball, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Exodus 25. Give each child a yellow paper square when they arrive.

1. Opening game: Happy Givers (5 minutes)

Say: "Your yellow square is gold. Would you like to give it to God?" One at a time, each child walks up with a big smile and puts the square in the box. Cheer for each one. Say: "You gave with a happy heart! Today we will hear about people who gave gladly to God."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Exodus 25. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God's people lived in tents in the desert. *(Make a tent with your hands over your head.)*
God said, "Of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering" (Exodus 25:2). *(Hold out your hands.)*
The people brought gold and silver and pretty cloth (25:3–4). *(Pretend to carry a heavy gift.)*
They brought so much, Moses told them to stop. That was enough! (36:5–6) *(Hold up your hand: stop!)*
Say it with me: "I give to God gladly!"
God said to make Him a holy tent, so He could live with them (25:8). *(Hammer with your fist.)*
Moses set it all up (40:33). *(Stand up tall.)*
A cloud came and covered the tent (40:34). *(Hold up the cotton ball.)*
God's glory filled it! *(Spread your arms wide.)*
When the cloud went up, the people walked on (40:36). *(Walk in place.)*
Say it with me: "God is with us!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did God's people bring? *(Gifts for God: gold, silver and cloth, Exodus 25:3–4)*
2. What did they make for God? *(A holy tent, the tabernacle, 25:8–9)*
3. What covered the tent? *(A cloud, 40:34)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'that I may dwell among them.' Dwell means live. God wanted to live with His people." Teach the motion: make a tent with your hands over your head on "dwell," then open your arms wide to everyone on "among them." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Exodus 25:8" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God wants to be with you. God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Follow the Cloud (5–10 minutes)

Hold the cotton ball up high: kids walk around the room. Bring it down low: everyone stops and sits down "in their tents" (Numbers 9:18). Play a few rounds. Then give each child a take-home sheet and help them draw God's tent with a cloud over it in the drawing box.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being with me.
Help me give to You gladly. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child put a gift in the box and hold the cloud once. If they get wiggly, play Follow the Cloud again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks where God lives now: God is everywhere, and He loves to be with His people. When we are filled with the Holy Ghost, God's Spirit lives in us (1 Corinthians 3:16).

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