

Giving for God's House

Scripture: Exodus 35:4-29

Key Verse: "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly for...God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Bible Lesson

Lesson Goal: The children will learn how the Israelites gave to build God's house and understand that they can give to God also.

Hook:

Variation 1 – Give each child one of the following materials: popsicle sticks, glue, small construction paper rectangle (about 1x2 in.), small construction paper squares (about 1x1 in), markers. Tell the children that we are going to "build" a house. Ask them to share their materials with you and let them help gluing the materials to a piece of construction paper or poster board to make the shape of a house. The popsicle sticks will make the sides and roof. The construction paper will make the door and windows. Let children color the sticks for the "inside" of the house.

Variation 2 – Use things around the room to make a "playhouse" in the room – pillows, chairs, blankets etc. Drape two or three chairs with a light blanket to make a tent. Use the pillows for doors or decorations. Draw windows on typing paper and tape them to outside.

In each variation, explain that everyone gave what they had to make your house. The Israelites did the same thing to make God's house in our Bible story.

Scripture:

Be sure to let them see you reading from the Bible. It is important to know that the lesson comes from God's words. You may want older children to help with reading. Use a translation that is easy to understand or a children's Bible.

Key Principles:

Emphasize these key ideas from the Bible lesson:

1. God told Moses that the Israelites should build a tabernacle.
2. A tabernacle is like a house for God. The tabernacle was also a place for them to get together to worship God. We have a place that we gather to worship God together; we call our building a "church"
3. God told the Israelites how to build the tabernacle and what was needed to build it.
4. The Israelites gave things they had to help build God's house. They bought gold, silver, bronze, blue, gold and purple yarn, cloth, leather and wood.
5. Offerings are things we give to God for Him to use or to serve Him.
6. We bring offerings to God today also. Our offerings help build our church and help others.
7. We can offer different things to God – such as money, time and work.

Application:

1. What did God tell the Israelites to build? (a house for him, a tabernacle)
2. What was God's house called (a tabernacle)
3. What was the tabernacle for? (a place for God to "live" (dwell) and a place to worship God)
4. How did the Israelites get the things needed for God's house? (they each brought things they had)
5. What kinds of things did the Israelites give to build God's house? (wood, gold, yarn for cloth, silver, etc.)
6. We don't really have to build our place of worship, but what can we do to help take care of our church? (clean up our toys, games that we play with at church, help plant flowers outside, be careful with the things we have at church – don't break things or write in books from the church)

For older children, you may also ask the following:

1. We call the things we give to God "offerings". What things can we/you give to God? (money, a happy heart, being kind to others, doing jobs joyfully, time/service, help clean toys, taking care of someone, draw a picture for someone sick, etc.)
2. How can we give offerings to God? How can we offer our lives to Him? (give a tithe (money) to the church to be used for God's work, ask God to use us to do His work, be willing to give up something we may want in order to do something for God, etc.)
3. How do your offerings to God help build His church today? How do we help not only our church building but help all the people in our community and around the world? (When we show love to others, it makes them want to know more about our God and worship Him too. We are doing God's work when we offer our lives to work for Him).

Activity

Choose one of the following:

Shoebox offering box – Bring several shoeboxes. Give each child a shoebox or let 2 or 3 work on a box together. Let the children decorate the boxes with construction or wrapping paper, foam shapes or glitter. Cut a hole in the top for money to fit in. Each child can take their shoebox home and put a tithe in it to save up to bring to church each week or month. Or you can keep the shoebox to collect money children bring for the church each week in KidSlot time.

Budget Box – Have a large index card file box for each child. You may want to ask each parent to contribute the money to pay for these for their children. Use a permanent marker to write the child's name on the top (lid) of the box. Older children can write their own name. Have some small envelopes already labeled – "tithe", "savings", "gifts". Make sure each child gets one of each of those envelopes plus a 1 or 2 unlabeled envelopes.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us be willing to give to Him our time, lives, money and service. Thank God for all He has given us.

