

Kindergarten-2nd



July 25-26, 2015

DATE

Israelites

LESSON TITLE

Exodus 26; Jeremiah 29:11

WHERE TO FIND IT

God wants to be close to us.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Understanding how we get close to people can help us understand how we get close to God. Talk to kids about their friends. Ask them things like:

- What's the nicest thing someone has done for you?
- Who do you like to spend time with?
- What's your favorite game to play with your friends?

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to share their tents with the adult who picks them up (especially because there are no Connect Questions posted today!).

large group heads up

Today, we're talking about how God got close to his family when they were in the wilderness. It's pretty exciting, because it shows us how much He wants to be close to us too!

connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

RELAY RACE

**Split kids into small groups (even if one leader is leading all groups).*

- Choose a **starting point** and an **ending point**.
- Tell kids to hop to the end point and back to their team. Once they high five the next person, that person can begin hopping to the end point and back.
- Continue that until kids have finished.
- As kids compete, call out random commands like: skip, walk backwards, walk like a robot, tiptoe, etc. Kids have to switch and do what you say, no matter where they are in their competition.
- At the end, ask every team the same question but let the winning team go first, the second-place team answer second, etc.
- **Here's the question:** What's your favorite thing to do with your friends?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) recognize that God wanted to be close to his family and (2) understand that God wants to be close to us

Why? The tabernacle meant God was living *with* his family! It shows how deeply He loves us.

Tip: Double-check any allergy alert stickers! (Most kids shouldn't be allergic to marshmallows, but just in case.)

small group

REENACT THE STORY

- Lay a **large, tear-off sheet of yellow paper** on the floor (yellow because it's a desert).
- Give each kid one **long piece of construction paper** and have them fold it in half (lengthwise) to create a **tent**.
- Then give kids the **pictures** of the **cloud, pillar of fire** and **tabernacle**.
- Have kids "set up" their tents in the desert. Then work together to reenact the story:
 - Where should the tabernacle go? (in the center of the tents)
 - Choose one kid to move the cloud and pillar of fire—have everybody follow them and "re-set up" camp! (Let several kids do this.)
 - Bring out a **Dixie cup of mini-marshmallows**. Remind kids how God sent down manna from Heaven (they can eat the "manna"!); please use no more than 1/3 of the bag!
- (*Put the **pictures**—not the tents—back in the bag.*)

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Why did God send a pillar of fire, a cloud, manna and a tabernacle? (He loved his family and wanted to be close to them.)
2. What is a tabernacle? (it was a way for God to be close to his people)
3. Why did God tell Moses that his people should build a tabernacle?
4. Does God want to be close to us too? How do we know? (refer to the Bible: specifically, our memory verse, Jeremiah 29:11)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

5. What's can we do to be close to God?
6. Share one thing you plan to do this week in order to be close to God.
7. **Write/draw** it on your tent.

Tell kids the tent will remind them that God is close to them! **Then pray, asking God to bring kids closer to him this week.**

*Then give kids a **coloring page** to work on. Still have extra time? Play a game of Simon Says or grab a group game and bring it back to the table.*

special notes

A lot happened in the wilderness, and we can only scratch the surface in one weekend. Watch the 2nd half (1:54 to the end) of this video:

youtube.com/watch?v=xd3s5xmbeHU.

Think about how you want to summarize it for kids!

presenter tips

Today's item "in" the backpack is a pair of binoculars. Make binoculars with your hands whenever you talk about looking for something or bringing something close. The motion will help kinesthetic learners remember what you're saying!

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Your game looked like a lot of fun, but what I really loved was hearing about all the stuff you guys do with your friends. I want to hear some more of it: what are your favorite things to do with your friends? (Let 3-6 kids respond.)

Wow, those sound really fun! And all those things just bring you closer to your friends, right? We get closer to our friends by doing fun things with them and spending time with them. We get closer to our friends by telling them things about ourselves, and listening to them. And today, we're going to talk about how we get closer to God by doing the same things with him!

WHAT'S IN THE BACKPACK?

Remember, we've been talking about being outdoors. Each week we've looked in our backpack for one item to help us understand our story. This week, let's see what we've got: (**click to show picture of binoculars**). Does anybody know what these are? (Let kids say: binoculars.) That's right! And what are they for? (Let kids respond.) Yep, they help us see from far away.

SET THE SCENE

We are going to need binoculars because in today's story, God's family was in the middle of the desert. Far off, in every direction, it looked like there was just more and more...and *more*...desert. They couldn't see if they would ever get out of it.

Let's imagine that for a second (**click to show the desert loop**). In every direction, this is what you see. Look closer (pretend your hands are binoculars)—does anybody see anything in the distance? Any water? (Let kids say: no). Hmm, nope, me neither.

And you know how you feel? Hot. The air is warm and there's no breeze. The sand beneath your feet is almost too hot to touch. You're thirsty (cough a little)...so, so thirsty. You feel like you're *stuck* here in this desert! That's what the Israelites, God's special family, felt like.



script continued

GOD WANTS TO BE CLOSE TO US

Remember, Moses helped the Israelites escape from slavery in Egypt. But after God brought them out of Egypt, they continued to wander through the desert in search of the Promised Land. Their journey was very hard and slow, but do you think they were alone? (Let kids respond.) No, of course not... because God was with them!

That will be our focus today as we talk about the desert wilderness. God was with his people because he wanted to be close to them, just like he wants to be close to you! That's why our object for today is a pair of binoculars. Because God is always watching you, (put your hands up like binoculars) looking out for you, and wanting to be closer to you.

GOD WAS CLOSE TO HIS FAMILY BY CARING FOR THEM

In a moment we are going to watch a video all about how God was with his people in the desert. As you watch, be on the lookout (binoculars) for how God stayed close to his family. (You could even watch the video through the "binoculars.")

Video: The Israelites in the Desert

Wow, so God took care of his family because he was close to them. What kinds of things would have shown them that God was close? *(Let kids respond: God lead them to a place called Elim, gave them quail (meat) and bread (manna); gave them water from a rock; and gave us Jesus. Summarize anything they missed.)*

GOD WAS CLOSE TO HIS FAMILY THROUGH THE TABERNACLE

God did lots of things to show that he wanted to be close to his family. One very special thing that God did was he told Moses that they should build a tabernacle. Can you guys say tabernacle? (Let kids say it.) Has anyone heard the word tabernacle before? (Let kids share if they want to guess or know what it means; **then click to show them what it looks like.**) A tabernacle was really, really special tent. It was the place where *GOD* lived. It showed that He actually wanted to be with them!

So everywhere God's family went, he asked them to set up this tent. They could go there to worship Him and to show him that they wanted to get close to him. He wanted them to be close to each other and to him, and the tabernacle would help them do both. Let's check out a song to find out about it! As you watch, think about how God wants to be close to YOU.

Song: Tabernacle

Wow, it's amazing that God wanted to live with his family, isn't it?? And you know what? He loves each of you too and he wants to be with each of you just like he wanted to be with the Israelites.

WE CAN BE CLOSE TO GOD TOO

Even though we can't see Him with us all the time as a cloud or fire, and even if we can't get to a tabernacle or a church, we know he still always wants to be close to us. And because Jesus took our rescue, we can talk to God and listen to him *anytime*...and *anywhere*! We can be



script continued

close to Him at home, at school, at the park, at the babysitter's, etc.! In fact, God tells us in the Bible just how much he loves and cares for us. Let's look for a minute at our memory verse for this month:

SLIDE: Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Just like God cared for the Israelites in the desert, he cares for us too. He has big plans for us! This is such great news that we want to remember it forever, everywhere we go. Let's say that verse again. We're going to say it loud. (Lead the kids in saying it out loud.)

Well done. You know, there are a few people who have been *really* trying to memorize this verse. Let's watch them compete to see who can remember the whole thing.

Video: Verse-O-Dome

Raise your hand if you think you can remember the whole thing (let kids raise their hands). OK, if you think you can do it, close your eyes. We're all going to say it again, but this time, try to say it with your eyes closed (lead the kids in saying it out loud again).

RESPOND AND WORSHIP

Remember, God wants to be close to his family, which means he wants to be close to US. So let's think of some things we can do to be close to Him! Being close to God is just like being close to your friends.

You already talked about things you like to do to get close to your friends so now let's think about how some of those same things bring us closer to God too! Let's think about a couple. I'm going to give you an idea of something we do with our friends. YOU tell me how we can do it with God. Ready?

- Talk to your friend- (God wants you to pray to him.)
- Listen to your friend- (Read the Bible; listen to God)
- Ask for help from your friend - (Ask God for things you need in your prayers, and obey God too)
- Celebrate together- (Worship God through music, dance, and fun!)

PRAY

Great job! Now that we have so many different ideas, take a minute to focus on one. Ask God to help you think of one specific way he would like to be close with you this week and pray that he helps you to do it. (Lead the kids in prayer and give them space to talk to God.)

WORSHIP

Let's sing a song out loud to remind ourselves of God's love for us!

Music Video: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)



script continued

INVITATION TO MOVIE NIGHT

(click to show slide) Before you go, I want to remind you to come to Movie Night here THIS FRIDAY NIGHT! It's going to be awesome! If you were here last week, you might remember that I can't tell you exactly which movie we're watching, but it's going to be a great story of six kids who know a lot about technology and become big-time heroes... it's also a great time to invite your friends to Crossroads. They will hopefully have so much fun that they'll want to come back with you and hear about Jesus! You'll get an invitation in small group—hope to see you there!

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Relay race game: No supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid

coloring page: Tent
1 half sheet of construction paper (please cut lengthwise, so that it creates two long, skinny rectangles; use a variety of colors)
1 Movie Night Invitation per kid to be handed out as they leave

Per group

Markers
1 Bible
Mini marshmallows (approx. 1/3 of a bag)
Large tear-off sheet of yellow paper
1 bag with the following: one color image of each on cardstock (cloud, pillar of fire, tabernacle), 1 dixie cup

large group supplies

Bible
Backpack

a/v needs

1. Slide: Great Outdoors loop
2. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
3. Image: binoculars
4. Video: desert loop (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya9qKuc5Y9Q>; 0:48-END)
5. Video: The Israelites In the Wilderness Public>Kids Club>Kids Club Media and Videos>Gospel Project
6. Image: tabernacle
7. Video: Tabernacle (<https://vimeo.com/5022601>)
8. SLIDE: For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
9. Video: Verse-O-Dome (Jeremiah 29:11; will be ready by the time this lesson is complete)
10. Music Video: Jesus Loves Me (<https://vimeo.com/44164426>)
11. Image: Movie Night
12. Slide: Great Outdoors loop

connect questions

Kids will eat several marshmallows today. Please let an adult volunteer know if your kid has an allergy.

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate document