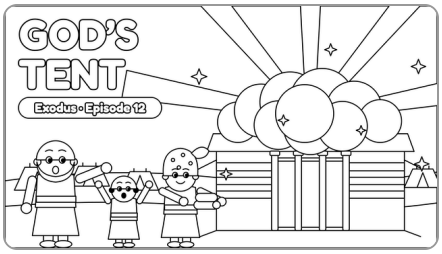
The Bible Under the Baobab · Discussion sheet for season 2, episode 12

God's Tent

Exodus 35 to 40 · For ages 3 to 10 · Video: 5 min 58



The story in brief

Moses asks the people for an offering for the Lord, everyone with a willing heart, and the people bring more than enough. The craftsmen make a tent for God: the Dwelling. Moses sets it up; the cloud covers it, and the glory of the Lord fills it. God lives among his people.

> **Note for parents.** The episode follows chapters 35 to 40 of Exodus in a much shorter form, and nothing frightening is shown. God is never pictured: only the cloud, the light that fills the tent and, by night, a fire in the cloud. The ark of the covenant is shown closed, without the cherubim on its cover; what the curtain hides is not shown. The measurements and the details of the work are left out. The Sabbath rule and its penalty (35:1-3), the sacrifices and the anointing of Aaron and his sons (chapter 40) are not told. "God lives among his people" echoes what God says in Exodus 25:8 and 29:45.

Let's talk about it

1. What does Moses ask the people to bring? Who is to give?
2. What are the names of the two craftsmen? What has God given to Bezalel?
3. Why does Moses ask the people to stop bringing things?
4. What do the craftsmen make? What does Moses put in the chest?
5. What happens when the tent is set up? How do the people know whether to set out or to stay?
6. Kofi brings the clay, Nia the water and the pebbles, and they make the pot again together. What have you made together with someone? What did each of you bring?

> **Notes for the grown-up.** An offering for the Lord, everyone with a willing heart: gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and red cloth; acacia wood, oil for the lamp, sweet spices and precious stones. Bezalel and Oholiab; God has filled Bezalel with his spirit: wisdom and skill. Because the people are bringing far too much: there is more than enough for the work. The tent, the chest (the ark), the table, the lampstand with seven lamps, the altars, the basin and the clothes for Aaron; in the chest, Moses puts the tablets of the covenant. The cloud covers the tent, and the glory of the Lord fills it. Whenever the cloud lifts, the people set out; when it stays, they stay.

To remember

Everyone brings a gift, with a willing heart! God lives among his people: come and take part!

The song: Everyone brings a gift, with a willing heart

Everyone brings a gift, with a willing heart!
God lives among his people: come and take part!

To do

Make something together with others: a drawing, a den, a cake. Everyone brings what they have, with a willing heart. Then draw the tent, with the cloud above it.

Watch the episode and hear the song: labiblesouslebaobab.com/en/episodes/gods-tent/
From the book of Exodus, chapters 35 to 40. Free for home, Sunday school and children's ministry.