

A Reflection of JESUS

Lesson 1

Preparing to Build the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-9,22; 36:3-7

It is important to God that we worship Him with a willing heart. God does not want to force man into a mode of worship, but rather He wants us to come eagerly and willingly with thankfulness.

The building of the Tabernacle is an excellent example of this principle. The people were not taxed, nor were they commanded to tithe, in order to build the Tabernacle. They were told only to give willingly. Those who did not want to give were not required.

The Willing Heart

Giving with a *cheerful heart* is an important concept to understand. When God told Moses to build Him a Tabernacle, the children of Israel certainly set an excellent example when gathering the material to build God this dwelling place. They gave willingly and cheerfully. They gave so generously that Moses had to restrain them from giving any more.

Can we imagine what it would be like today if we had this same attitude of giving?

Teacher: While teaching this lesson, emphasize with your students the importance of a joyful and giving spirit. Teach children that this generous spirit is an important component in the worship of God.

The Spirit of Giving

While the Israelites camped at Mount

Sinai, Moses was given the Law. As a part of the Law, God gave Moses specific instructions which involved the building of the Tabernacle.

Moses instructed the people of Israel that they were to make an offering to God (Exodus 25:2-7). The people could bring gold, silver, or brass. They could offer red, blue, purple, smooth, or hairy thread. They could bring animal skins, wood, jewels, spices, or oil. Anyone who was willing could bring an offering to the Lord.

Moses gave the materials to the workmen and told them to use this to build the Tabernacle.

The people gave generously, far more than what was needed (Exodus 36:3-7). Moses had to finally instruct the people not to make any more offerings. There was more than enough to build God's Tabernacle! God blessed some of the men with the skills of artisans. These men taught others.

This giving spirit comes from God. Jesus reminds His workers, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). This spirit of giving signifies trust. God will meet your needs; don't be fearful. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

You can't beat that! □

Scripture for Today

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”
(2 Corinthians 9:7).

Choose Your Questions

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:”

1. Who loves a cheerful giver? *God.*
2. Do you think giving of your time, substance, and energy is a form of worship? *Yes.*
3. What does it mean to “give” with a cheerful heart? *Not grudgingly or resentfully.*
4. How do you worship God with a spirit of joy? *In thankfulness and praise.*
5. Does God hear you when you sing? *Yes.*
6. God gave His holy Law to the Israelites from what mountain? *Mount Sinai.*
7. Does God want to live among His people? *Yes.*
8. What did God instruct Moses to build? *The Tabernacle.*
9. Did the Israelites contribute willingly to building the Tabernacle? *Yes.*
10. What can we give to our church? *Our tithes, offerings, and time.*
11. What can we give to others? *Cards, flowers, food, our time, our labor.*
12. When we give to others, are we sharing the blessings God has given us? *Yes.*
13. What can you give to God that no one else can give? *Your prayers.*
14. What could you give as a gift to the congregation? *Sing, pass out hymnals, any act of service to others. □*

Ideas and Notes:
