

Godly Play Script

Godly Play is a creative, innovative and experiential way of helping both children and adults engage with the stories in the Bible. Before using a Godly Play script for the first time read the document [How to Use Godly Play](#) which also tells how to find more help if Godly Play is new to you. You will need to allow time to gather the materials and objects needed for the script and also to practice telling the Godly Play story. If time permits after the Godly Play session is complete you can also make use of the [Action Scene](#) picture which tells the story of Israel leaving Egypt. The [Action Scene instructions](#) give guidance on how to use the Action scene to best effect. The activities can be adapted to suit time and resources available.

Godly Play Desert Tent Box

You will need:

- Large shoebox with loose lid, wrapped in brown paper. Label the box: *Desert Tent Box*
- Piece of yellow material representing the desert
- Images of gold and silver jewellery from magazines or catalogues
- Swatches of material to represent 'fine linen'
- Blue, purple and red wool
- Woolly material representing fabric made of goats' hair
- Cardboard shaped like an animal skin and coloured red (rams' skin dyed red)
- Piece of leather
- Piece of wood (acacia)
- Small, clear container of oil (for the lamps)
- Spices (for the anointing oil and incense)
- Sheet of stick-on craft gemstones (for the High Priest's ephod and breastpiece)
- Photocopy of the [Sacred Tent Sheet](#) for each child

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Bring out the box and place it in front of them.

Leader: Has anyone ever been camping? What did you sleep in? What colour was the tent? Did you get wet when it rained? Who owned the tent? Well, today we are going to find out about a very, very, special tent. A tent that could only be made if lots of people helped each other. Let's open the box and I'll help you to find out how it happened....

Open the box. Slowly take out the yellow material and spread it out on the floor in front of you, smoothing it and inviting the children to respond as you say, 'I wonder what this could be?' Accept all possible answers with, 'Yes, it could be that.'

Leader: God wanted the Israelites to make a 'holy place'. It would be a tent – but a magnificent one – where the people could worship God during their travels through the desert. It was to be made with materials they had already or could find around them. So Moses told the people what God wanted them to find things to make the Sacred Tent. They were to bring an item as an offering. Let's see what the people offered to God.....

Take the pictures of jewellery from the box. Place them on the yellow material.

Leader: The gold was used to cover the wooden posts and poles, crossbars, the Covenant Box, and the altar. The plates, cups, jars and bowls for the wine offering, the lampstand and lots of the decorations, were made from solid gold. Gold was also used in the priests' clothes.

Give each child a copy of the Sacred Tent sheet. Invite the children to colour the posts and crossbars with yellow/gold crayons.



Take the swatches of material and the blue, purple and red wool from the box. Place them on the yellow material.

Leader: The material for the tent was woven from wool dyed in colours like these, and then embroidered and decorated. There was also an entrance curtain. The same materials were used for the priests' clothes.

Invite the children to colour the entrance curtain, on their sheet, using blue, purple and red.

Take the woolly material from the box. Place it on the yellow fabric..

Leader: They made a covering for the tent from goats' hair cloth.

Take the cardboard animal skin and the piece of leather from the box. Place them on the yellow material.

Leader: Two more coverings were made. One with rams' skin dyed red and the other of fine leather. These protected the tent from all weathers.

Invite the children to colour the outer covering of the tent, on their sheet, with brown or red.

Take a piece of wood from the box. Place it on the yellow material.

Leader: Acacia wood was used to make the tent frames, curtain poles, carrying poles, the offering table and the 'covenant box'.

Take the oil and spices from the box. Place them on the yellow material.

Leader: There was oil and sweet-smelling incense on the altar during the worship time.

Take the sheet of stick-on craft gemstones from the box. Place it on the yellow material.

Leader: Precious jewels were placed in the priests' 'breastpiece'. There were four rows, mounted in gold. The gems included diamonds, emeralds and sapphires.

God had given some people the gift of teaching; others had skills for the tent-making. So, by offering materials and sharing skills, the Israelites were a happy people, preparing and building as God had commanded them. God gave all the instructions to Moses and the people did as God commanded. Sometimes the people offered more than was needed. They wanted to show God that he was important to them. The sacred tent was a sign that God was with them, wherever they went.

Invite the children to respond to some 'wondering' statements. Be positive with all responses.

Leader:

- I wonder if everybody wanted to bring an offering to make the tent?
- I wonder if the children brought anything to help make the tent?
- I wonder if the people had smiles on their faces as they brought their offerings?
- I wonder if we need a tent (or building) as a sign that God is with us now?
- I wonder if anyone has ever shared something with you?
- I wonder what you could do to share with other people?
- I wonder if God smiled when the sacred tent was finished?

Add the **DESERT TENT BOX** to the **TABLETOP TABLEAU** by turning the box on its side and displaying the objects around / on the box and on the yellow material. Place a photocopy of the Sacred Tent sheet in the box