

VOLUNTEER

ISRAELiTE cAMP

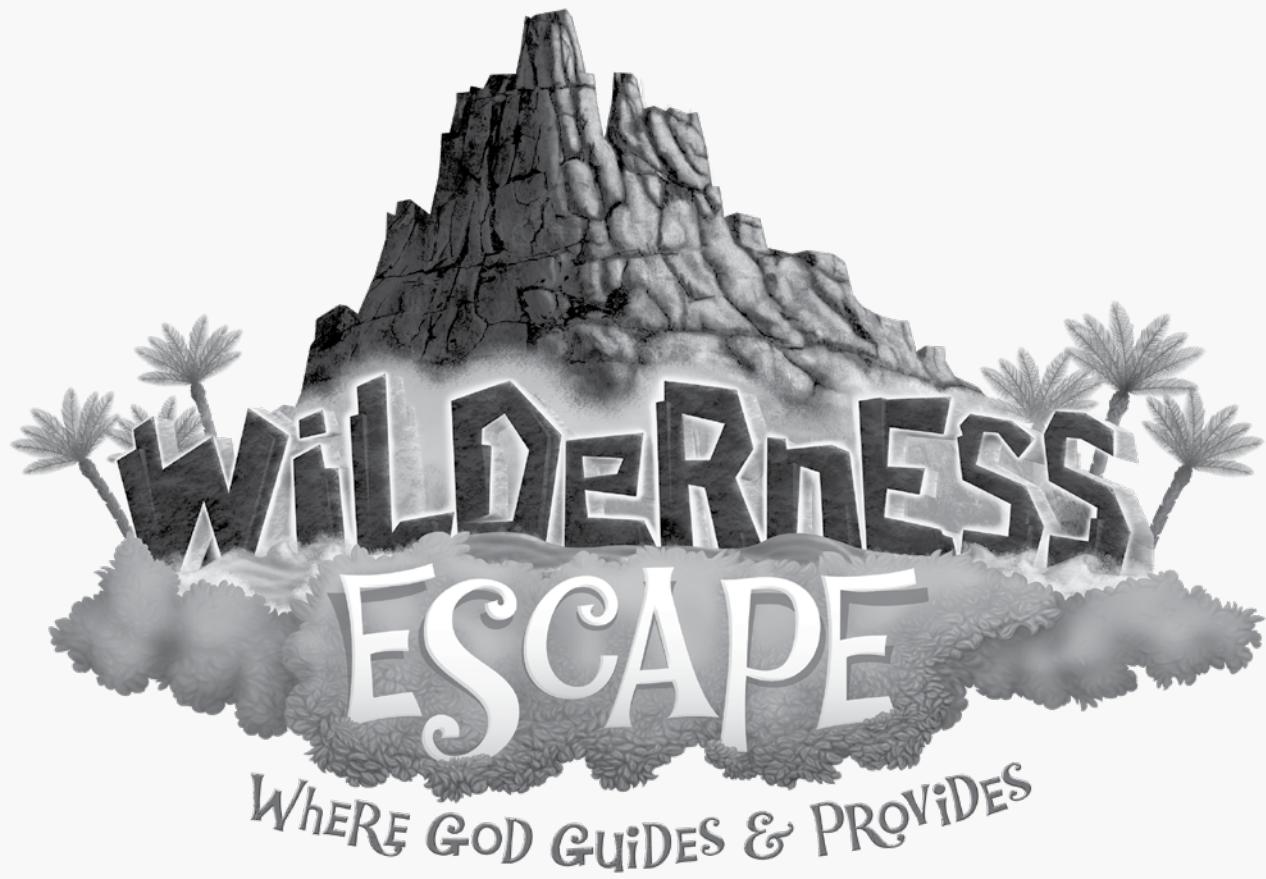


Includes
preschool-
friendly
options!

Tent Host Manual



WILDERNESS
ESCAPE
WHERE GOD GUIDES & PROVIDES



ISRAELITE cAMP TENT Host

MANUAL

Loveland, CO
group.com/vbs



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:

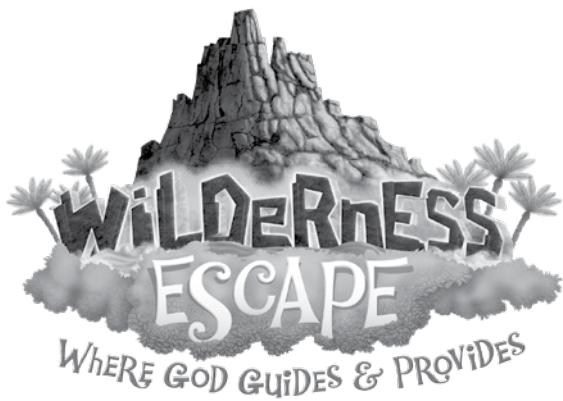


Relational—Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential—What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable—The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based—Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.



Israelite Camp Tent Host Manual

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Credits

A big thanks to our wildly creative VBS team: Jody Broolsma, Stephen Caine, Ardeth Carlson, Shelly Dillon, Cindy Hansen, Jan Kershner, Michael Paustian, Kelsey Perry, Mike Porter, Joani Schultz, Rodney Stewart, and Andy Towler.

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Operation Kid-to-Kid™ Alpaca Farm 61



You'll reinforce Bible learning in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. That's why each center is so important to the overall learning experience.

Explore the entire program at a glance. Refer to the chart to see how each center's activities supplement other activities to make the Bible come to life at your church!

Bible Point: God is with us, so... trust God!

Key Verse: "God answered, 'I will be with you.'" (Exodus 3:12)

Bible Story: The Israelites cross the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

Bible Point: God gives us what we need, so...trust God!

Key Verse: "For your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" (Matthew 6:8)

Bible Story: God provides manna and quail. (Exodus 16)

- Learn this day's Bible verse.
- Get to know all the Tribes.
- Sing new songs.
- Meet this day's Bible Memory Maker.



- Hear a few God Sightings.
- Learn this day's Bible verse.
- Sing new songs.
- Meet this day's Bible Memory Maker.

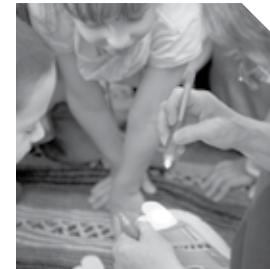


Tribe Time

Use a Crazy Critter to share times or places they're glad that God is with them.



Write their needs with a Way-to-Glow Pen, and discover that God knows their hearts like no one else!



Moses' Tent

Meet Moses and the Wilderness Whiner; escape from Egypt, then cross the Red Sea—on dry land!



Whine about being hungry; then chow down on an amazing delivery of quail and manna!



Games

- Cone Heads
- Croc Tag
- Drop the Blanket



- Quail Tag
- Mouse in the House
- Camel Spit



ISRAELITE CAMP

Choose a few tents to visit each day:



BAKER



BUTTER CHURNER



CAMEL HERDER



CAMP CLEANER

Chase**DAY 3****DAY 4****DAY 5**

Bible Point: God gives us strength, so... trust God!

Key Verse: "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Bible Story: Israel defeats the Amalekites. (Exodus 17:8-16)

- Learn this day's Bible verse.
- Sing new songs.
- Meet this day's Bible Memory Maker.



Bible Point: God saves us, so... trust God!

Key Verse: " 'For I am with you and will save you,' says the Lord." (Jeremiah 30:11)

Bible Story: Moses remembers Passover. (Exodus 12:1-30)

- Sing favorite songs.
- Learn this day's Bible verse.
- Review days 1-3.
- Meet this day's Bible Memory Maker.



Bible Point: God guides us, so... trust God!

Key Verse: "I will bless the Lord who guides me." (Psalm 16:7)

Bible Story: God gives the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20)

- Learn this day's Bible verse.
- Hear Tribe cheers.
- Meet this day's Bible Memory Maker.
- Pray for families in Ecuador.



See how a Surprise Ariser goes from wimpy to wow...and explore how God gives them strength.



Write their names with a Spray Away Writer, then discover the surprising way Jesus washes their sins away!



Try to move a paper clip through an A-Maze-ing Map as they experience what it means to have God guide them through life.



Choose a Moses for each trio, who will hold up heavy mini-staffs. But friends will give each Moses strength!



Paint on door frames as they pray for family members; then sit in houses and sample unleavened bread.



Watch Moses lead the Wilderness Whiner around scary traps, and talk about obeying God's commandments.



- Foot Ball
- Follow the Commands
- Launch



- Lemon Herders
- Wrap Up & Go!
- Quick Cleanup



- Sheep & Shepherds
- Air Traffic Control
- In Bounds



OPERATION
KID-TO-KID™
ALPACA FARM



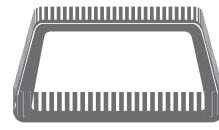
SAND ARTISAN



SANDAL
STITCHER



MUSICIAN



WEAVER



ROPE
MAKER



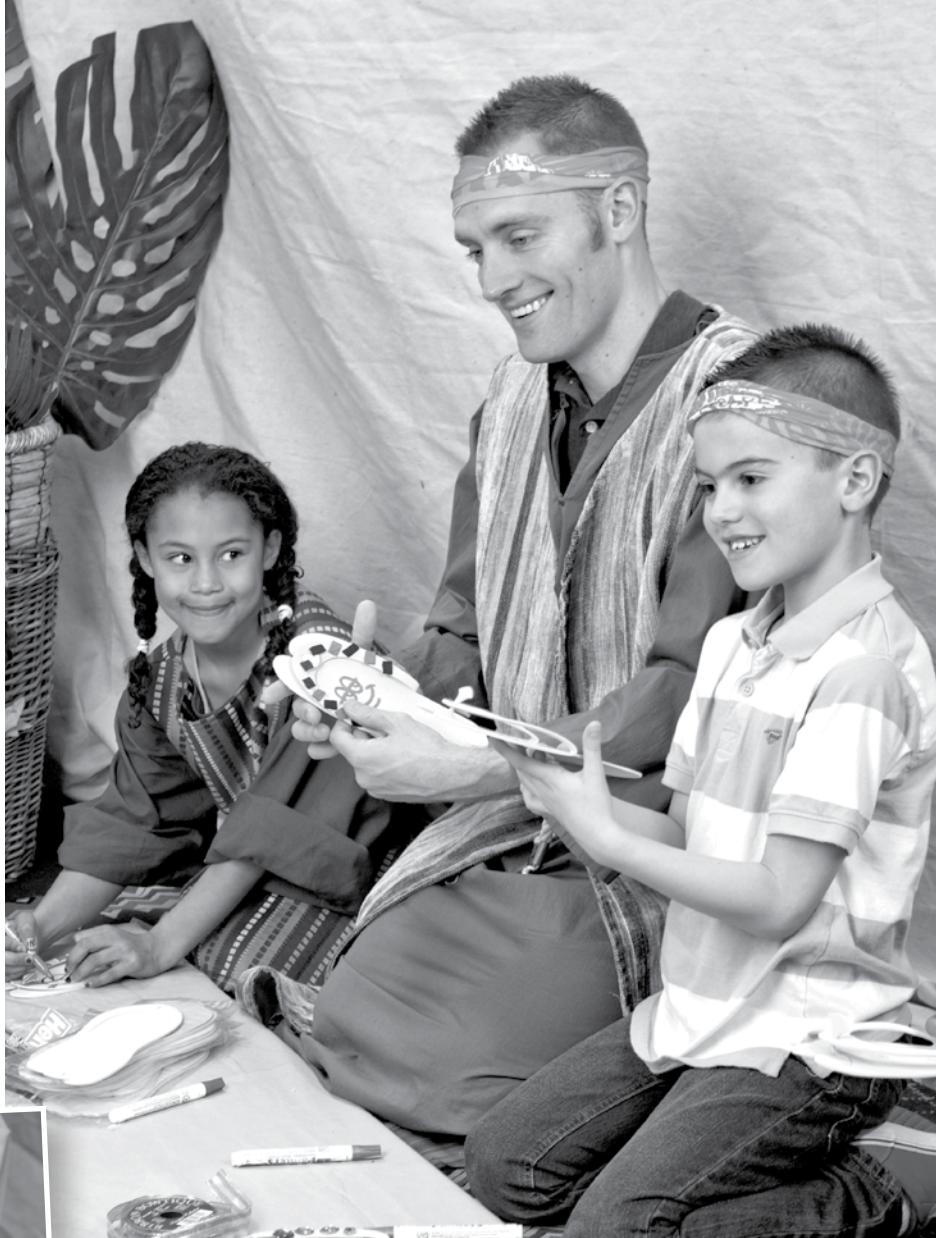
SANDAL STITCHER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Sandal Stitcher's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests make a pair of Simple Sandals.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand the part sandals played in the Bible-times wilderness. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about this wilderness journey God is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 10.



Supplies



- Simple Sandals*
(1 pair per participant)
- colorful permanent markers
- colorful ribbon and lacing
- adhesive gems*
- stickers (optional)
- scissors
- pencils and pens
- Sandal Stitcher sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ Sandals were known very early in biblical history. Abram mentioned sandals in his conversation with the king of Sodom: "Abram replied to the king of Sodom, 'I solemnly swear to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, 'I am the one who made Abram rich'" (Genesis 14:22-23).
- ▶ During Bible times, sandals were sometimes used as proof of legal exchange: "Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction" (Ruth 4:7).
- ▶ However, sandals weren't always appropriate. Moses wore sandals when he approached the burning bush, but God set him straight. "'Do not come any closer,' the Lord warned. 'Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground'" (Exodus 3:5). Later, the same advice was given to Joshua (Joshua 5:15).
- ▶ At other times, sandals were specifically called for. On the night of the Passover, the Israelites were told to be prepared for the start of their journey: "Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand" (Exodus 12:11).
- ▶ Sandals were even part of a Bible-times miracle! During their 40-year journey in the wilderness, the Israelites' clothing and sandals miraculously didn't wear out (Deuteronomy 29:5)!

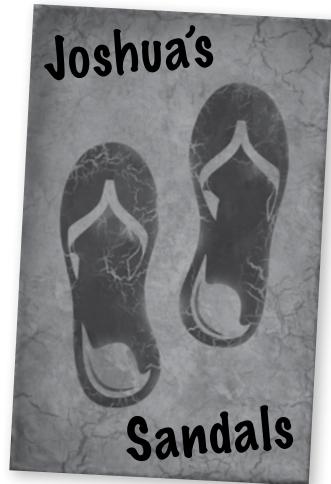
SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Sandal Stitcher sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are provided on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one pair of Simple Sandals. That way you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ Set out a preschool lacing toy, such as a lacing shoe or lacing cards.
- ▶ Provide paper and crayons, and let little ones trace their feet on the paper and then color.



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!



HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!



The Sandal Stitcher

Holy Land Hint

The Bible tells us that God caused the Israelites' sandals and clothes to not wear out during the entire 40-year journey! So while you won't be selling many sandals to the Israelites, you see the sandal situation as evidence of this amazing God you've come to trust!

Holy Land Hint

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the "voice of truth," sharing what they know about God!

Your character is an Egyptian who chose to accompany the Israelites out of Egypt. Because of what you've seen him do, you trust God more than most Israelites do.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the Egyptian sandal maker, you'll play the role of someone who trusts God because of the miracles you witnessed in Egypt and during the journey so far. You can't understand why the Israelites are complaining and having a hard time trusting God. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

► Welcome, welcome. I'm glad to see you. I'll be happy to show you how to make a pair of sandals. I haven't had many customers today—I guess those Israelites are too busy complaining to Moses. I'm from Egypt, and I saw the amazing things God did there. How can anyone not trust God? Especially his own people! Do you trust God?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

► Come in! I have plenty of sandal-making material here. That's because none of the Israelite sandals are wearing out! I'm from Egypt, and even I know it's God giving the Israelites what they need. But they don't even see it. They're so busy complaining that they don't understand how amazing God is. What should I say to them to help them understand?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

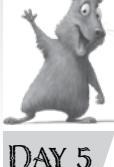
► Greetings! Welcome to my sandal tent. It's nice to talk with people who aren't always complaining like those Israelites. I come from Egypt and came along on this journey because I want to know more about God. I've seen how powerful he is, and I want to know more. Do you believe in God? What can you tell me about him?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

► Welcome! You don't seem like one of those complaining Israelites. That's good! I'm tired of listening to them whine. I'm from Egypt, and I came with the Israelites because I saw how amazing their God is. Our Egyptian gods must have been fake, because they never did anything. But the real God can do anything! He saved his people in Egypt, and I know he'll keep them safe on this journey. I just hope he'll keep me safe, too. Do you think he loves everyone? Even an Egyptian like me?



DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

► Welcome! I have many sandals to choose from—mainly because none of the Israelites are buying any sandals. It's amazing—God is keeping their sandals in good shape on this journey. But I don't mind. Maybe I can sell some sandals when we get to where God is leading us. I'm so excited to be here. I'm from Egypt, and I just have to see where this amazing God is guiding us. Where do you think we're going?

Making Simple Sandals



1. Give each person a pair of Simple Sandals. Have them write their names on each sole. If desired, they can trace their feet on the soles and trim to size.



2. Pull the rounded end with the slit forward. At the other end, pull up the loose piece and slide the narrow part into the slit until it catches at the hole.



3. Decorate the soles with permanent markers, stickers, and adhesive gems.



4. Wrap yarn, ribbon, or leather lacing around the top bands of the sandals as further decoration.



BUTTER CHURNER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to your Butter Churner's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests make their own fresh butter.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand the use of butter in Bible times. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about trusting God during this wilderness journey he is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 16.



Supplies



- Bitty Butter Bottles* (1 per participant)
- variety of colorful permanent markers
- Bible-times-looking pitcher
- paper towels
- heavy cream
- 2 coolers
- ice
- plastic bags
- crackers (or rolls from the Baker's Tent)
- plastic spoons and knives
- Butter Churner sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier



Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called "Egyptian Gold") that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we've discovered that using the coins helps kids "budget" their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ Butter is mentioned in the Bible as early as the book of Genesis. According to some Bible translations, butter was one of the items Abraham served to the three angels who appeared to him as men (Genesis 18:8).
- ▶ Although the word "butter" is used in several Bible translations, scholars think that many of the references are probably referring to curdled milk or curds.
- ▶ The process of butter making is described this way in Proverbs 30:33: "The beating of cream yields butter."
- ▶ Butter in Bible times was probably made in much the same way it's made by present-day rural Arabs and Syrians. Milk from a camel, cow, sheep, or goat was poured into a holder made of animal skin. The skin was then suspended between two poles and swung back and forth until the butter or curds thickened.

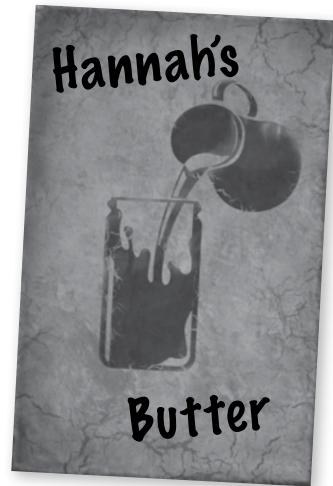
SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Butter Churner sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are provided below in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one bottle of butter. That way you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ Set out a play kitchen set so little ones can pretend to cook.
- ▶ Provide moldable dough and plastic utensils for preschoolers to play with.



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!



HOLY LAND HINT

Although the Bitty Butter Bottles are food safe, be sure to wash them out before VBS since kids will be eating the butter they make.



The BUTTER CHURNER

HOLY LAND HINT

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about Jesus!

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

Your character is one of the many complaining Israelites.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the butter churner, you'll play the role of someone who is very annoyed at having to live in the desert wilderness. You don't trust God, you don't trust Moses, and you'd rather be back in Egypt. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

♦ Welcome, welcome. Are you here to make some butter? Well, good luck. It's so hot in this desert I don't know if we'll have success. I don't know what Moses was thinking when he led us out of Egypt! He says God is with us, but I don't know. What do you think?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

♦ Come in, come in—let's try to make some butter. Of course, it's so hot in this desert, it may not work. Moses says God gives us what we need, but what I need is a cool breeze! Does God give you what you need? I'm having my doubts!



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

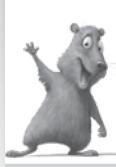
♦ Greetings! Welcome to my butter-making tent. Or maybe I should call it my butter-melting tent! This desert sun is so hot! I hate being in this wilderness! Moses says God will give us the strength we need, but I feel pretty weak right now. Why would God lead us into this situation?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

♦ Welcome! Come in and help me make some butter. If it's not too hot, that is. I wish we had stayed in Egypt, but no! Moses says God saved us from slavery in Egypt, but why? Now we're stuck in this hot desert. How is that saving us? I don't trust that Moses anymore. What do you think of that?



DAY 5

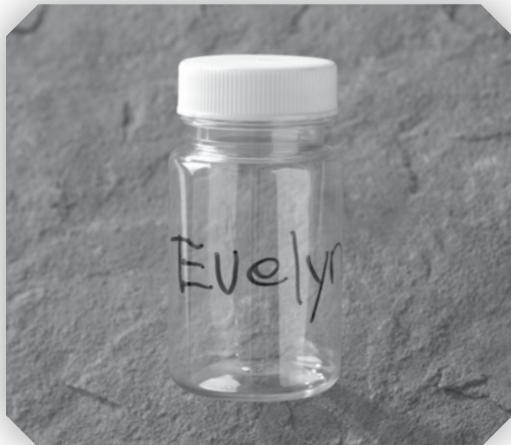
GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

♦ Come in! I hope you're here to make some butter. If it doesn't melt in this heat, that is. God is supposed to be guiding us, but as far as I can see, he guided us right here into this wilderness! With all this sand and heat and no idea where we're going next—how can I possibly trust God to guide us? How do you trust God?

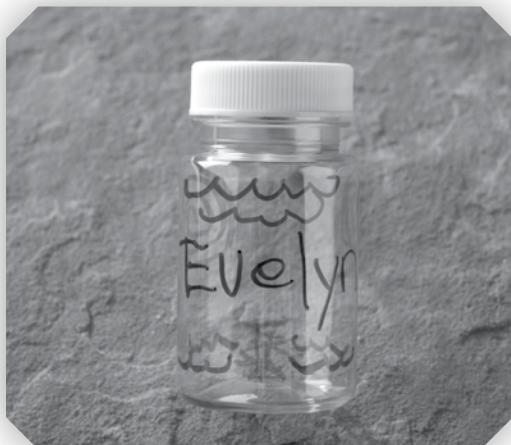
GET READY

Partially fill both coolers with ice. In one, place cartons of heavy cream, the pitcher, and a plastic bag filled with empty Bitty Butter Bottles. In the other, place plastic bags marked with each Tribe's name. Pour cream into the pitcher just before participants arrive.

MakInG a BiT oF BUTTER



1. Give each person a Bitty Butter Bottle. Have them use permanent markers to write their names on the bottles.



2. Decorate the bottles with markers, if desired.



3. Pour chilled cream into each person's bottle, to about a third full.



It's easier and quicker to make the butter if all ingredients and utensils are chilled.

HOLY LAND HINT

After the butter has soft-set, you may need to pour off the buttermilk that has separated on top of the butter.



Our Tent Host helped kids make up silly songs and rhymes to recite while shaking the bottles. Fun!



4. Shake the bottle—the cream will eventually turn into soft, fresh butter. This may take about 5 minutes. Encourage everyone to keep at it! (The cream will first turn to thickened buttermilk, then to soft butter.) Then enjoy on a cracker or roll!



AFTER EACH SESSION

Place finished bottles in the appropriate Tribe bags in the second cooler. Participants can take their Bitty Butter Bottles home at the end of the day and keep them in the refrigerator.

SAND ARTISAN



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Sand Artisan's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests make "sand art" jewelry.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and learn some interesting facts about the use of sand in ancient times. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about trusting God during this wilderness journey he is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 22.



Supplies



- Air-Dry Clay*
(1 packet per participant)
- variety of colorful permanent markers
- colorful plastic lacing
- beads
- scissors
- coffee stirrers (for poking holes in jewelry)
- small paper plates
- Sand Artisan sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ The study of sand is called arenology.
- ▶ Sand is an example of a class of materials called granular matter. Sand is finely divided rock, with particles ranging in size from $\frac{1}{16}$ to 2 millimeters. These particles are called grains of sand. The next smaller size in geology is called silt. The next larger size above sand is called gravel.
- ▶ One cubic foot of sand weighs approximately 110 pounds.
- ▶ Some historians believe that a system of counterweights using bags or buckets of sand was used to help build the Egyptian pyramids.
- ▶ Other historians think the Egyptians used the idea of sand pneumatics while building the pyramids. With this theory, blocks were placed on shafts filled with sand. Releasing the sand from the shafts would lower the block into place.
- ▶ Sand was used as early as 6000 B.C. to grind and polish stones and to make sharpened tools. The stones were rubbed on a piece of wetted sandstone to hone the cutting edge. The first beads with a glass glaze appeared in Egypt in about 3500 to 3000 B.C. The glass was made by melting sand.

SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Sand Artisan sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are provided on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one sand art piece of jewelry. That way you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called "Egyptian Gold") that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we've discovered that using the coins helps kids "budget" their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ On a clean piece of plastic or material, set out a tub containing some sandbox sand. Add plastic spoons, cups, and colanders, and let the fun begin!
- ▶ Provide sheets of sandpaper, and let little ones use crayons to create their own "sand art."



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!



The Sand ARTisan

HOLY LAND HINT

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

Your character is trying to make the best of being in the desert but is frustrated with the journey. You'd rather be back in Egypt.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the sand artisan, you'll play the role of someone who has decided to use the abundant amount of desert sand to make jewelry. You're not at all happy about being on this journey or having to live in the desert. You had many more supplies for your art when you were in Egypt, and you're having trouble trusting Moses—and God. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...*TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

♦ Welcome to my tent. I hope you like sand, since that's all there is in this desert wilderness. I don't know why we didn't stay in Egypt—I had so many more supplies for my art there. Here, all I have is sand, sand, and more sand! Moses says God is with us, leading us. But I don't see God; all I see is sand. Who do you think is right, me or Moses?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...*TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 16)

♦ Come in, come in. Would you like to make some sand jewelry? One thing we have plenty of is sand! We don't have much else—just sand. Sometimes I wonder how we'll ever survive this wilderness journey! Who will take care of us? Who can we rely on?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...*TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 17:8–16)

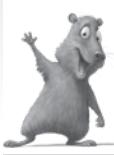
♦ Greetings! I hope you like working with sand, because that's about all I have at the moment. This desert is really getting to me. Sand, heat, loneliness. I don't know how Moses can still trust God so completely. How does he do that?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...*TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 12:1–30)

♦ Welcome! Come in and make sand art. Whatever you do, you'll be using sand, since that's all there is out here in this miserable desert. Sometimes I worry that we're all going to die out here. Who will save us in this lonely desert?



DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO...*TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 20)

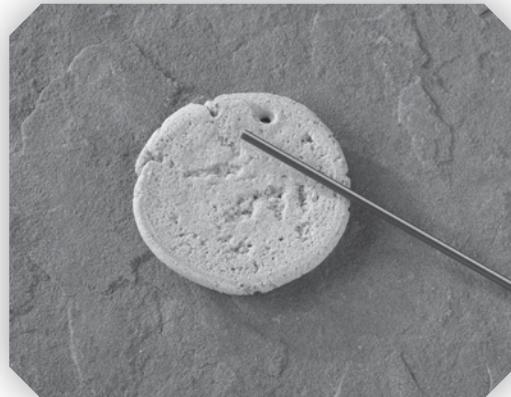
♦ Greetings! Would you like to make some sand art? I hope so, because I have plenty of sand! In fact, that's about all I have. I don't know how much more of this desert I can take. I wish I were back in Egypt. But Moses says God is guiding us. I just don't see it. I mean, look around. It's a wilderness. How can Moses keep trusting God like he does?

MakInG SAND ART JEWELRY

On Your First Tent Visit:



1. Give each person a packet of Air-Dry Clay, and have everyone follow these instructions. Open the clay and knead it until it's soft and pliable.



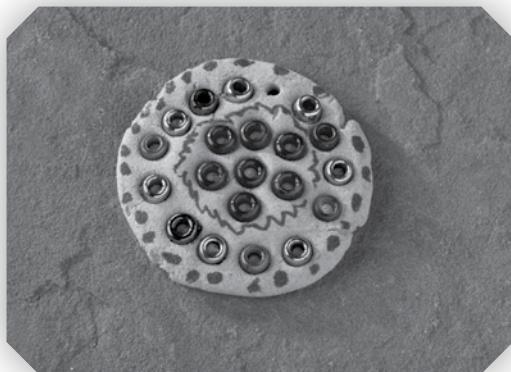
3. Use a coffee stirrer to poke a hole where you'll place the lacing when the clay is dry. Press beads into the soft clay, if desired. Place the jewelry on a paper plate, and write your name on the plate. Set aside to dry overnight.



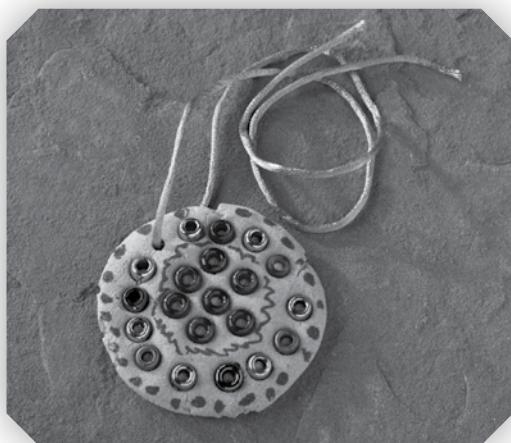
2. Shape the clay into the desired shape for your jewelry.



On Your Second Tent Visit:



1. Use markers to decorate your sand jewelry.



2. Cut a length of lacing long enough to go around your neck or wrist with enough left to tie a knot. Thread the lacing through the hole you made.



3. If desired, thread beads onto each end of the lacing. Tie a small knot after the last bead on each side of the sand jewelry to keep the beads in place. Tie the ends of the lacing securely, and wear your sand art with pride!



MUSICIAN



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Musician's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests make tambourines.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand the origin and use of tambourines in Bible times. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about this wilderness journey God is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 28.



Supplies



- Triumphant Tambourines*
(1 per participant)
- colorful jingle bells
- variety of colorful markers
- plastic lacing
- scissors
- Glue Dots*
- Musician sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ The tambourine is an ancient percussion instrument that originated in Mesopotamia, Middle East, India, Greece, and Rome.
- ▶ Made by stretching a drumhead over a frame, with small metal discs attached to the outer ring, it's generally played by striking it rhythmically against the hand or hip and then shaking it in the air.
- ▶ Tambourines are featured in the Bible as instruments used to worship God. In fact, a tambourine was used after God miraculously led the Israelites through the Red Sea! Here's what Exodus 15:20 says: "Then Miriam, the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine and led all the women as they played their tambourines and danced. Miriam sang this song, 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea.'"
- ▶ God's people often praised God with music. Among the instruments mentioned in the Bible are harps, lyres, cymbals, tambourines, flutes, shofars, and trumpets.



SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Musician sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are provided on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one tambourine. That way you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called "Egyptian Gold") that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we've discovered that using the coins helps kids "budget" their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ To make an easy musical noisemaker, tape waxed paper over the end of an empty bath tissue roll. Let a child put a small handful of dried beans into the roll. Then tape the other end closed. Now shake, rattle, and even roll!
- ▶ An empty cornmeal box makes a wonderful drum, and drinking straws make fun drumsticks. Or string a few jingle bells onto plastic lacing and securely tie the ends together to make a fun jingle-jangle bracelet.



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!

The Musician

HOLY LAND HINT

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

Your character trusts God completely.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the musician, you'll play the role of someone who loves and trusts God and uses music to praise him. Even though the journey has been difficult at times so far, you've watched God work, and you trust him. You'd like to help your fellow Israelites trust God, too. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

♦ Welcome! I'm glad to meet new people! Do you trust the one true God, too? I do! I know he's always with us, even here in the desert. That's why I make these musical instruments—so I can play music to praise our wonderful God. What are your thoughts about God?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

♦ Come in, come in. Let's make tambourines to praise our amazing God! I know many of my fellow Israelites are unhappy here in the desert. They spend all their time complaining to Moses. But they could be using that time to praise God with music! After all, God gives us all we need! He is faithful! I don't know how to help my friends understand. What should I say to them to help them trust God?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

♦ Greetings! Welcome to my tent. What are you hearing out in the Israelite Camp? Is everyone still complaining and whining? I can't understand that. Why complain, when God is always there to help us and give us strength? I'm sure God has helped you in the past. I'd love to hear about that.



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

♦ Welcome! Come in and make a tambourine. You can use it to praise God, like I do. That is, if you trust God. So many of my own people don't, you know. I find that so sad. God loves us so much and saves us from trouble. How can they not trust him? How can I change their minds?

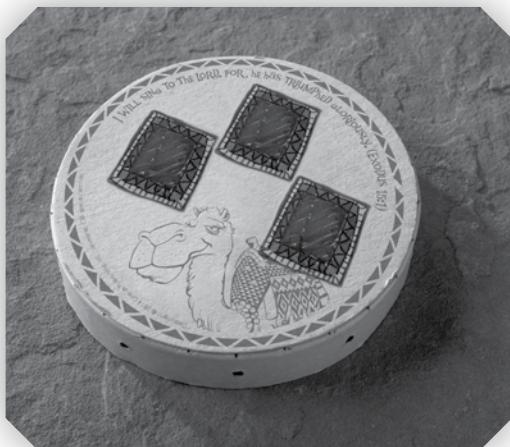


DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

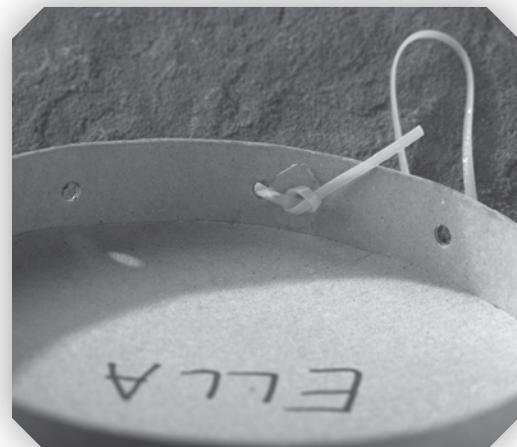
♦ Welcome! Please come in and look around. Are you looking for an instrument to use to praise God? That's why I love music—because I can use it to praise our wonderful God. I don't care if I'm a captive in Egypt or living in a tent in the desert—I trust God all the time! I just wish my fellow Israelites felt the same way. How can I help them trust God more? What should I say?

Making a Tambourine



1. Write your name inside the tambourine. Use markers to decorate the outside of the tambourine.

2. Measure plastic lacing around the tambourine, and cut a length of lacing several inches longer than the circumference.



3. From the outside, thread one end of the lacing through a hole on the tambourine. Tie a knot in that end of the lacing, and use a Glue Dot to keep the knot in place.

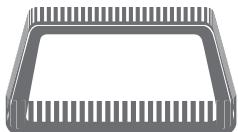


4. Thread a bell onto the loose end of the lacing, tying a knot that allows the bell to have a little jingle room away from the tambourine. Weave the lacing around the body of the tambourine, tying a bell at each hole.

NOW MAKE SOME MUSIC TO PRAISE GOD!



WEAVER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Weaver's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests practice weaving on a loom.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand what it was like to be a weaver in the wilderness. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about this wilderness journey God is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 34.



Supplies



- Tiny Tapestry Loom Kits* (1 per participant)—includes loom and 3 weaving loops
- variety of colorful markers
- variety of weaving supplies, such as colorful ribbon, cloth strips, and yarn
- adhesive gems*
- scissors
- Weaver sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ The Israelites were acquainted with the process of weaving before their captivity in Egypt, and they continued the process in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. But it was probably in Egypt that they gained the proficiency to make the exacting and artistic hangings for the tabernacle.
- ▶ As captives in Egypt, the Israelites probably learned much about weaving. The Egyptians were especially skilled in the art of weaving. The Egyptian loom was usually upright, and the weaver stood at his work. The cloth was sometimes fixed at the top and sometimes at the bottom.
- ▶ Jewish weavers produced a variety of textures. The coarser kinds, such as tent cloth, sack cloth, and the “hairy garments” were made of goat’s or camel’s hair (Exodus 26:7; Matthew 3:4). Wool was used for ordinary clothing, while flax was used for finer work, described in the Bible as “linen” and “fine linen.” Hand looms were probably used to produce the most delicate fabrics.
- ▶ Mention of looms and weaving are found in Scripture. For example, we read of the loom “shuttle” (Job 7:6; Judges 16:13-14) and the “weaver’s beam” (1 Samuel 17:7; 2 Samuel 21:19).

SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called “Egyptian Gold”) that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we’ve discovered that using the coins helps kids “budget” their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.

Hang the Weaver sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are provided on the next page in “Assume an Identity.”) Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.



A Full Tent

During their stay in the wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one loom weaving project. That way you’ll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

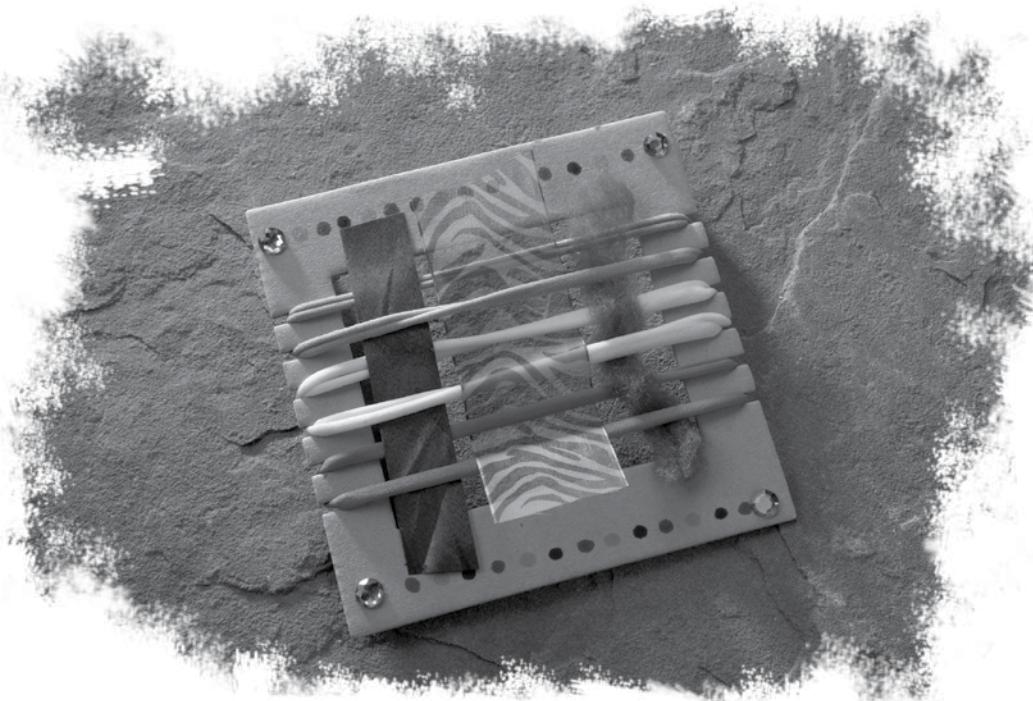
Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ Set out several lacing cards for little hands to practice on.
- ▶ Cut several rounded squares of pliable plastic snow fencing. Let preschoolers use wide ribbon to weave in and out of the large holes.



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!

The Weaver

Holy Land Hint

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

Your character is annoyed about having to live in the wilderness and doesn't mind complaining to anyone who will listen.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the weaver, you'll play the role of someone who doesn't like the wilderness, doesn't trust Moses' leadership, and doesn't really trust God's plans. You voice your opinion loudly and often. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

♦ Welcome. I hope you're ready to weave. If you're going to join us on our wilderness journey, you'll need to make a mat to sleep on. That's all we have here in the desert—hard, dry ground to sleep on. Sometimes I wonder if God even knows what's happening to us. What do you think—does God really care?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

♦ Come in, come in. You must be here to weave a mat. You'll need it here in the desert—it's so uncomfortable sleeping on this hard ground. We were so much better off in Egypt! Why did Moses bring us out here? We don't have any of the comforts we had in Egypt. What was Moses thinking? How will we get what we need here in the desert?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

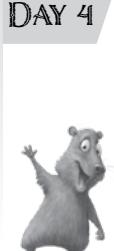
♦ Greetings! Welcome to my weaving tent. If you don't have a mat yet, you'll need to practice weaving so you can make one. It's hard to sleep on this dry desert floor without a mat. You know, back in Egypt we had to serve the Egyptians, and let me tell you—sometimes it feels like we're still back there! Whatever Moses says, we have to do. Why didn't he leave us alone in Egypt? How can God help us now?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

♦ Welcome! Would you like to learn to weave? It's important to have a sleeping mat here in the desert—the ground is so dry and hard. Not like Egypt. Things were so much better in Egypt. I'm afraid Moses is leading us into the desert to die. Who will come to our rescue? Who can save us?

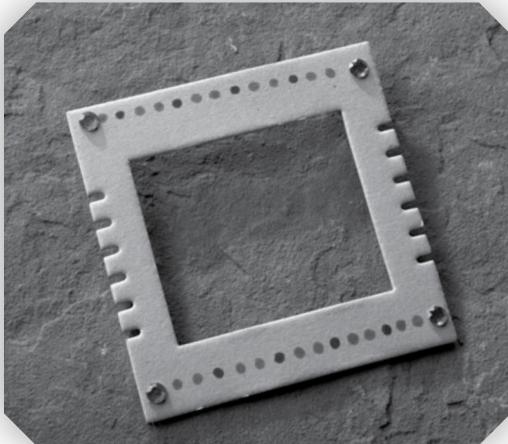


DAY 5

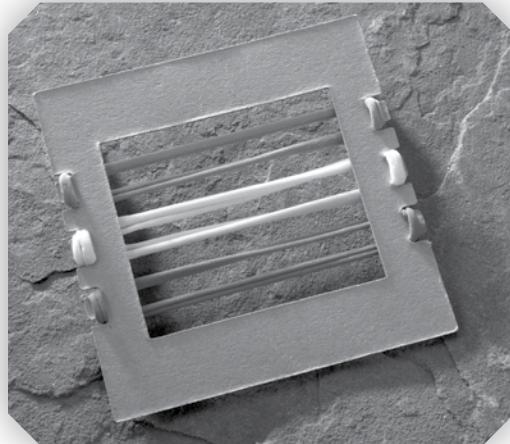
GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

♦ Welcome! If you're new here, you'll need to learn to weave a sleeping mat. The ground is so hard and dry here in the desert. You know, we were so much more comfortable back in Egypt. We had beds and everything. I can't imagine what Moses is thinking or where he's going to lead us next. Could anything be worse than this? I guess we'll find out. Who guides you? Maybe I could join your caravan.

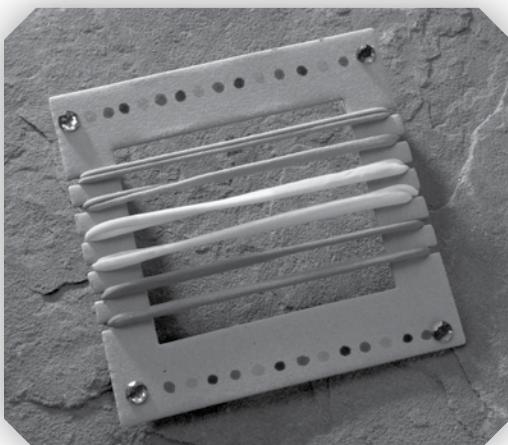
USING a WEAVING LOOM



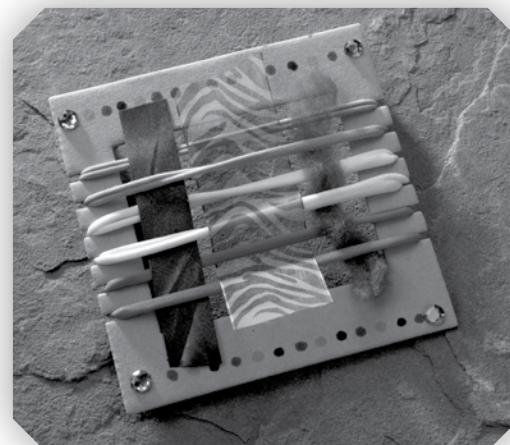
1. Write your name somewhere on the loom. Use colorful markers and gems to decorate the outer edges of the loom, front and back, if desired.



3. From the back of the loom, your loops will look like this.



2. Horizontally, loop a band from the top 2 hooks on the left to the top 2 hooks on the right. Move down to the next 2 hooks on either side and repeat with another band. Repeat with the third band.



4. Choose one or more materials to use for weaving. Starting at the bottom, weave a length of ribbon, fabric, or yarn over and under the horizontal bands. Repeat weaving, using a variety of materials, until your loom is filled!



ROPE MAKER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Rope Maker's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests make small lengths of rope.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand the use of ropes in ancient times. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about this wilderness journey God is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've provided on page 40.



Supplies



- variety of colorful yarn
- variety of twine and cording (optional)
- scissors
- Rope Maker sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ The use of ropes for various activities—such as hunting, lifting, and carrying—dates back to prehistoric times.
- ▶ Ropes were originally made by hand using natural fibers. Modern ropes are made by machines and often contain synthetic materials to give them improved strength and resistance to rotting. More than half of rope made today is used in the fishing and maritime industry.
- ▶ Although the actual origin of rope is unknown, the Egyptians are known to have developed tools to make rope. Egyptian rope dates back to 4000 to 3500 B.C., and this early rope was made of water reed fibers. Other Egyptian rope was made from the fibers of date palms, flax, grass, papyrus, leather, or camel hair.
- ▶ By approximately 2800 B.C., rope made of hemp fibers was in use in China. Rope and the craft of rope making then spread throughout Asia, India, and Europe.
- ▶ Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) drew sketches of a concept for a rope-making machine, and by the late 1700s, there were several working machines in use.
- ▶ Rope continued to be made from natural fibers until the mid-20th century, when synthetic material such as nylon became popular.

SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Rope Maker sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are included on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough neighbors visiting for now but will need new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one rope. That way you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ To make an easy braid, tape the ends of two or three strands of yarn to a table. Demonstrate how to do an over-under braid—or let kids simply twist the strands together. Tie the ends together for young children.
- ▶ Preschoolers love to use combs and brushes. Have a few dolls or plastic ponies available, and let little ones brush their hair or manes. (Point out that the textures are like rope-making materials.)



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!



We tried a variety of materials, including twine and cotton cording, but good old yarn worked the best!

The Rope Maker

HOLY LAND HINT

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

Your character is unhappy on this wilderness escape journey in the desert and isn't afraid to voice an opinion. You distrust Moses and God and wish you were back in Egypt.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the rope maker, you'll play the role of someone who'd like to tell Moses a thing or two! You're disgusted with this journey, and wish you were back in Egypt. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)



DAY 1

► Welcome, welcome. I hope you're ready to make some ropes! We need all the ropes we can make to keep the animals together out here in this awful desert. What if an animal wandered off in this heat? It would die! I don't know what Moses is thinking! He says God is with us, but it doesn't look that way to me. What do you think? Is God really with us? How do you know?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

► Come in, come in. You're just in time to help me make some more ropes. We're running low—we need them to hold up the tents and to keep the animals together. We didn't have to worry about those things in Egypt. But Moses dragged us out here in the desert where everything is a struggle! How are we supposed to get what we need to live? Who can we turn to?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

► Greetings! Come in and help make some ropes. We have so many tents and animals that need ropes, we can't keep up. Maybe Moses should get over here and help, right? He's so busy supposedly talking to God that he doesn't seem to have time to work. I can't do it all myself, you know. I'm so tired—I could use some strength! But where can I turn?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

► Come in! We have plenty of supplies to make more ropes. We need them to save the animals—a few got loose last week and died out there in the wilderness. We couldn't save them. I'm worried about our animals, and I'm worried about our people, too. Who's going to save us out here in this wilderness?

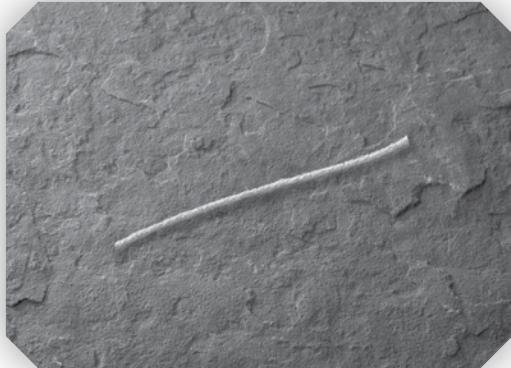


DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

► Are you here to make some ropes? I hope so! I heard a rumor that we'll be breaking camp soon. We'll need lots of ropes to wrap up the tents and tie the animals together so they don't run off. I'd like to run off—right back to Egypt! Where in the world will Moses lead us next? Is God really guiding us, or is Moses just wandering around in the sand?

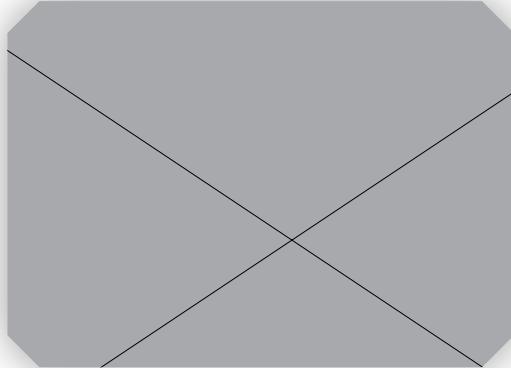
MakInG ROPE



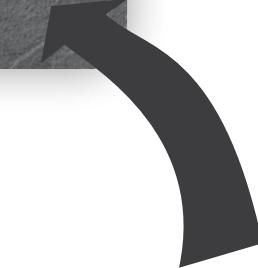
1. Cut an 18-inch length of yarn. Join with another participant to form a pair. (It's okay if partners aren't from the same Tribe.) Have each partner hold an end of the length of yarn.



2. One partner will be the Steady Ender and the other will be the Twister. The Steady Ender holds the end steady, while the other partner twists his or her end in one direction.



3. When the length of yarn is wound very tightly, the Twister partner will hold both ends of the yarn together. The yarn will rapidly twist around itself, forming a small length of "rope." Tie the two ends together to secure. Then partners will switch roles.



HOLY LAND HINT

Use a longer length of yarn, and after making the first "rope," double it and repeat the procedure. You'll end up with a doubly thick rope!



CAMP CLEANER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Camp Cleaner's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and let your guests help clean the Israelite Camp!

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand what it was like to try to keep the camp clean in the desert wilderness. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about this wilderness journey. God is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 46.



Supplies



- large plastic tarp (if indoors)
- small area rugs
- small brooms
- whisk brooms
- tubs or buckets
- water
- variety of small and large towels
- nonbreakable cups, bowls, and plates
- feather dusters
- washboard (optional)
- bowls of baking soda "natron" (optional)
- clothesline (optional)
- Camp Cleaner sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

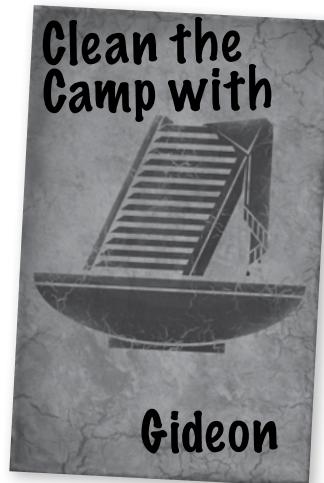


Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called "Egyptian Gold") that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we've discovered that using the coins helps kids "budget" their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ▶ Natron, a carbonate salt mixture found in dry Egyptian lake beds, was used in ancient Egypt as a cleaning product for both the home and body. Blended with oil, it was an early form of soap. The closest approximation of natron is not table salt but baking soda, an inexpensive and easily purchased item in the West.
- ▶ Historically, sand also has been used as a cleaning agent—for scouring pots and pans, filtering water, and even for cleaning clothing.
- ▶ In Deuteronomy, there is instruction on burying wastes because "the Lord your God moves around in your camp to protect you and to defeat your enemies."
- ▶ Leviticus 13 and 14 provide instructions about taking care of an issue with mildew, whether found in garments or a home. Cleansing involved quarantine, followed by washing multiple times. In the case of garments or hides, the item was to be burned if the mildew persisted. If stones were found to have mildew, they were to be scraped and the scrapings "dumped in the unclean place outside the town."
- ▶ In Numbers 19:17-19, there are directions for cleansing after touching a dead body: Make a burnt offering for purification. Put some ashes from the offering into a jar with fresh water. Dip a hyssop branch into the ash water and sprinkle it on the furnishings in the tent where the person died and on all who were in the tent or touched the dead body.
- ▶ Much of the biblical instruction on cleanliness refers to ceremonial cleansing, giving meaning to the once-popular phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness"!



SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Camp Cleaner sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are provided on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough helpers for now, but they're welcome to come back at another time when you have more room!

Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ Have plenty of small towels and plastic pots and pans on hand. That way, little ones can practice polishing the utensils to make them clean and shiny!
- ▶ Kids love water! For preschoolers only, avoid the larger tubs of water. Instead, set bowls of water on towels for water play with little ones.

Be sure to have plenty of adult supervision around your water tub, especially if allowing little ones to participate in the mixed-age camp cleaning activity. Assign one adult to each small child to make sure kids are safe.



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!



The Camp Cleaner

Holy Land Hint

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

Holy Land Hint

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

Your character is obsessed with trying to keep the Israelite Camp clean in the desert. You sometimes wish you were back in Egypt.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the Camp Cleaner, you'll play the role of someone who tries and tries to keep the camp clean, despite the abundant sand in the desert wilderness. Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

► Welcome! Come in! I could use your help! It's impossible to keep things clean here in the desert. Sand, sand, sand—that's all there is! It was so much easier in Egypt. I can't even remember why we ever left. What do you think of this wilderness journey?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

► Come in, come in. I hope you've come to clean! This sand is everywhere! No matter how hard I try, I can't keep things sparkling clean. It's really bothering me! I know I shouldn't get so upset—after all, at least we're not in Egypt any more. And God is giving us what we need here in the desert...but I still seem to always want more. Why is that, do you think?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

► Greetings! I hope you've come to help clean this miserable camp. It's impossible to get rid of all this sand! No matter how hard I try, it keeps blowing and seeping back in. I almost think we'd be better off back in Egypt. At least it was cleaner there. Moses says God is powerful and will give us strength, but do you really think that's possible?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

► Welcome! I hope you've come to help clean! It's just impossible to keep this camp clean, no matter how hard I try. Moses is so busy talking about God all the time, I don't think he even realizes how dirty this place gets. Look, I know God has done some amazing things. But is he powerful enough to save us in this miserable desert? I have my doubts. What are your thoughts?



DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

► Come in! Would you like to help clean? This camp sure could use it! I don't know what Moses was thinking, leading us out here in the middle of absolutely nowhere! He claims that it's really God who's guiding us, but I think he's just trying to make God take the blame. Does God even know where we are? What do you think?

CLEANING THE ISRAELITE CAMP



1. Fill a tub or bucket with a few inches of water, and set it on the tarp. (If you're using baking soda for cleaning, provide another basin of water for rinsing.) Have plenty of dry towels on hand for each rotation.



3. If you have a washboard, use it to wash small cloths in a basin of water. Hang the clothes over a clothesline, if desired.



2. Invite participants to wash and dry camp utensils. Use the brooms and dusters for general cleaning.



HOLY LAND HINT

Demonstrate how to clean the rugs to force out bits of sand and dirt. One method is to simply shake the rug. Another is to beat the rug with a whisk broom.





BAKER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Baker's Tent. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests make delicious baked rolls. You can also provide trays of snacks for participants to "purchase" each day.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and consider the provision of food in the wilderness. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about trusting God during this wilderness journey he is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 52.



Supplies



- defrosted bread dough (1 small lump per participant)
- large cookie sheets
- nonstick cooking spray
- towels (for hand washing)
- oven
- pot holders/oven mitts
- paper plates or serving platters
- small paper plates
- variety of Bible-times snacks, such as pita bread, dried fruit, cheeses, dried meat, and various dips
- Baker sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier



Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called "Egyptian Gold") that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we've discovered that using the coins helps kids "budget" their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- We know that the Israelites took animals with them when they left Egypt. In Exodus 12:32, Pharaoh told Moses to "take your flocks and herds...and be gone." So, if the Israelites had livestock, why did they complain about having no food? Some scholars speculate that they didn't want to eat their livelihood. They were shepherds in Egypt and probably expected to be shepherds in their new land.
- Others speculate that after 400 years in captivity, the Israelites might have become too steeped in the Egyptian culture of animal worship to actually eat those animals. (Remember, it wasn't too long before they made a golden calf to worship!)
- Now, what about manna? The word manna is derived from the Hebrew, meaning "What is it?" Numbers 11:7-9 tells us that the manna, which came down with the dew during the night, was like coriander seeds and pale yellow in color. The people could grind it into flour and then make flat cakes that tasted like pastries baked with olive oil.
- The manna started about one month into the wilderness journey and continued for 40 years until the Israelites entered the Promised Land of Canaan.
- The Lord instructed Moses to fill a 2-quart jar with manna to preserve it for later generations. The jar was eventually placed in the Ark of the Covenant, along with the stone tablets.

SETTING UP

Tent Layout

Hang the Baker sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names can be found on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

Put together trays of snacks such as cheese, dried meat, nuts, dried mango, dried apricots, dried cherries, banana chips, dried figs, dried green beans, dried apples, pita, and dips such as dill or honey. For fun, offer "quail eggs" (white yogurt-covered malt balls)! All foods fitting for long travel in the desert!



A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make fresh rolls one time. That way, you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)

Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including yours), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ Provide molding dough, toy rolling pins, and candy molds. Preschoolers will have fun rolling out the dough and pressing dough into candy mold shapes.
- ▶ Set out a plastic kitchen set so preschoolers can "cook" and "bake" with the older kids!



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!



HOLY LAND HINT

Explain that during the rest of the week, participants can simply pay a coin for a small plate of snacks—without having to bake a roll again.



HOLY LAND HINT

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

THE BAKER

Your character is unsure whether to trust God. When you hear the other Israelites complaining so much, you start to doubt God.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the baker, you'll play the role of someone who is unsure what to think. Sometimes you trust God and think Moses is leading your people in the right direction. But when you listen to the other Israelites complain, you find yourself agreeing with them. You're having a hard time trusting God.

Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about trusting God as Moses does. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO... *TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

► Welcome. Would you like to help me bake some rolls? I find baking keeps my mind off worrying about being out in this huge wilderness. It's so lonely! I know Moses says God is with us, but I still worry. Do you ever wonder where God is?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO... *TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 16)

► Come in! We can talk while we bake some rolls. At least we have enough to eat, right? A lot of people are complaining because we don't have the food we had in Egypt. But I think God is giving us all we need. What do you need from God? Does he provide for you?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO... *TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 17:8–16)

► Greetings! Welcome to my bakery. You know, there's a lot of complaining going on in this camp right now. I try not to listen to it. Sometimes I'm afraid to tell my friends I trust God. I wish I had a stronger faith. Any advice?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO... *TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 12:1–30)

► Welcome to my bakery! It's nice to have a place to bake in this desert. It's not as nice as the kitchen I had in Egypt, but at least I'm not a captive anymore. God saved us from Egypt and slavery! I need to remember that! How do you keep from doubting God?



DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO... *TRUST GOD!* (Exodus 20)

► I hope you've come to help me bake rolls! I'll guide you through it. Hey, that reminds me of how God has been guiding us through this wilderness. Does God ever guide you? I'd love to hear about that!

MakInG FRESH ROLLS

1. Spray cookie sheets with nonstick cooking spray. Preheat oven according to package directions.
2. To provide a clean working surface, wash and dry your counter, or cover with butcher paper, foil, or wax paper for each rotation. (You could also give each person a paper plate to work on.)



3. Have everyone thoroughly wash and dry their hands. Give each person a small lump of defrosted dough. Knead and push the dough. After several minutes of kneading, roll the dough into a ball.



4. Let each participant place a dough ball on the cookie sheet.



5. While rolls are baking, invite participants to enjoy a roll that's already baked, plus any other snacks you have available.



CAMEL HERDER



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Camel Herder's Tent. Here participants can visit with the animals and also decorate Camel Caravan Bells to take home. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold from each participant and help your guests personalize their camel bells.

You can use the historical background to shape your character and understand what it was like to tend animals in the wilderness. An important part of your job is to visit with participants at your tent about this wilderness journey God is leading you on. Be sure you're familiar with the conversation starters we've given on page 58.

HOLY LAND HINT

If you have actual animals for kids to hold and pet, this is a perfect place to keep them—with the camels! Even if it's just a bunny or puppy, kids love animals!



Supplies



- Camel Caravan Bells*
(1 per participant)
- variety of colorful permanent markers
- variety of colorful paint markers
- yarn and lacing
- beads
- scissors
- a variety of real animals (plus their food, water, and crates)
- Camel Herder sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier



Each day, every participant will receive 3 coins (called "Egyptian Gold") that they can spend in the Israelite Camp. Through field testing, we've discovered that using the coins helps kids "budget" their time and encourages them to spend more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it makes kids feel important as they purchase crafts and snacks! Be sure each person contributes 1 piece of Egyptian Gold to participate in your tent.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The Israelites probably brought herds of cattle, goats, sheep, and other animals with them from Egypt. And while traversing the desert wilderness, they most likely would have run into gazelles, antelope, lizards, snakes, and scorpions.
- When one thinks of desert animals, camels come to mind almost immediately. There are two major varieties of camels—Arabian (dromedary) and Bactrian. Arabian camels have one hump, while Bactrian camels have two. The Israelites would have used Arabian camels, which are native from India to north Africa. Bactrian camels are found mainly in central Asia.
- When necessary, as in the desert, camels can survive on just about any food—including sparse grass or even thorns. During such times, they live mainly off the fat stored in their humps.
- Camels don't actually store water but use it slowly, which enables them to go without drinking for several days. When water is found, a thirsty camel can take in up to 25 gallons at one time!
- Their ability to cross vast deserts has earned camels the nickname "ships of the desert."
- Owners of camels often put ornaments on their favorite animals. Often, crescent-shaped ornaments were sewn on red cloth and made a jingling sound as the camel walked.
- Mosaic law forbade the Israelites to eat camel meat, but it's possible that they did use the milk to drink or to make butter.
- Camel's hair was spun into strong thread, and coarse fabrics could be made from the thread. Tents were also sometimes made of camel's hair, as well as carpets, rugs, and garments.

SETTING UP

Tent Layout

How (and where) you set up your tent will depend on what kinds of animals you're able to gather. Of course, you'll want to keep larger animals outside the Camp. If you have smaller animals, just set out cages or animal carriers in a quiet area of your Israelite Camp.

Hang the Camel Herder sign outside the entrance to your tent. Add your chosen name to the sign, if desired. (Sample Israelite names are included on the next page in "Assume an Identity.") Set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.

A Full Tent

During their stay in the Wilderness, people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every tent. When your tent is full, explain that you have enough visitors for now but will have room for new ones tomorrow. (Remind Tribes that you only have enough supplies for each guest to make one Camel Caravan Bell. That way you'll have plenty of supplies for everyone.)



Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role. We've found that when staff members have an Israelite name, it helps give them a "pretend identity" they can use for role-play. Consider a male name like Simeon, Benjamin, Asher, Joshua, or Gideon. Female names include Miriam, Abigail, Hannah, Judith, and Leah. Or choose a favorite of your own!

Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your tent. Remind participants that since they'll visit only three tents per day (including the Baker's Tent), they'll have plenty of time to explore the other tents. There's no need to rush! You're likely to find that kids and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

Options



Through years of field testing—and lots of customer feedback—we've learned that it's helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Tribe members (especially preschoolers) to work on in the Israelite Camp. That way, little ones can find a project that's easy for them to do. Consider adding the following preschool options to your tent.

- ▶ Set out a variety of fun stuffed animals for preschoolers to play with.
- ▶ Provide a number of animal picture books, and let little ones look for their favorite furry friends!



An observer at our field test noticed how engaged kids were with Tent Hosts who really got into their roles. It makes such a difference—and gives kids a chance to practice sharing their faith. So please ham it up!

HOLY LAND HINT

This role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Tribe Leaders should jump right in as the “voice of truth,” sharing what they know about God!

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!

THE CAMEL HERDER

Your character worries about the animals in camp, especially the camels. You were happier in Egypt.

Each Tent Host will have a different perspective of Moses and the entire wilderness experience. As the Camel Herder, you'll play the role of someone who is upset about having to tend the animals in the harsh desert wilderness. You're also upset with Moses for making you leave Egypt. You're having a hard time trusting Moses—and God.

Throughout the week, in addition to the suggested dialogue below, visit with participants in your tent about Moses and the God he serves. Use the following statements simply as conversation starters.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

♦ Welcome! Are you here to make a bell for your camel? I worry about my animals—especially my special camels. How is your camel doing out here in this wilderness? I feel so alone out here—like God has forgotten all about us. Do you ever feel like that?



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

♦ Greetings! Welcome to the animal area. Would you like to make a camel bell? The poor camels need them so we can hear if one wanders off. It might die in this heat, even though it is a camel. Nothing can survive without water, and what if Moses leads us to a place where there is none? How can we find what we need in this wilderness?



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8–16)

♦ Greetings! Welcome to my animal tent. I'll teach you how to decorate a bell for your camel. It's about all the power I have at the moment—making camel bells. I tried to talk Moses into taking us back to Egypt, but he didn't even listen to me. I feel so helpless and weak out here in the wilderness. What if I don't have the strength needed to go on in this desert?



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1–30)

♦ Welcome to my animal tent! Would you like to decorate a bell for your camel? It might save his life, you know. You'll be able to hear him if he wanders off into the desert. But who's going to save us out here in the wilderness? That's what I want to know!



DAY 5

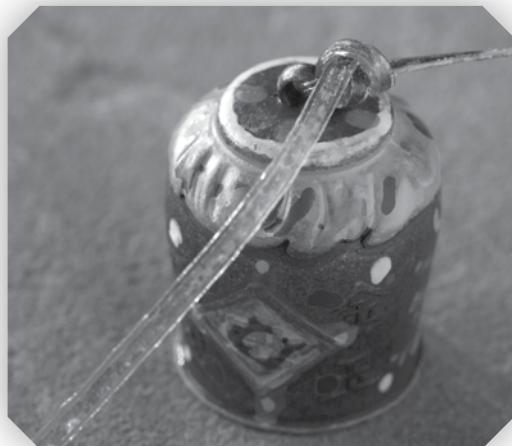
GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

♦ Greetings! Come in and make a bell for your camel. You'll need to be able to pick your camel out of the crowd of animals, and a bell should help. Camels are wonderful creatures, but they do need someone to guide them. But that makes me wonder—who is there to guide us people?

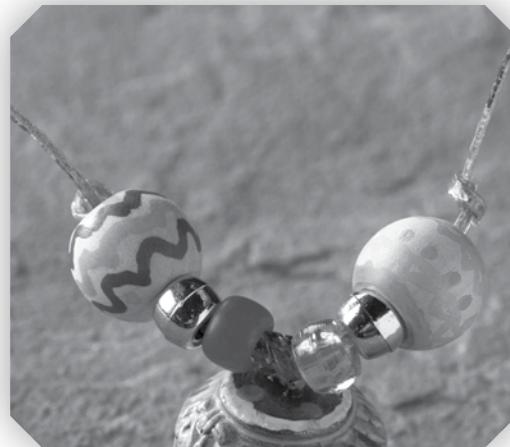
DECORATING THE CAMEL CARAVAN BELL



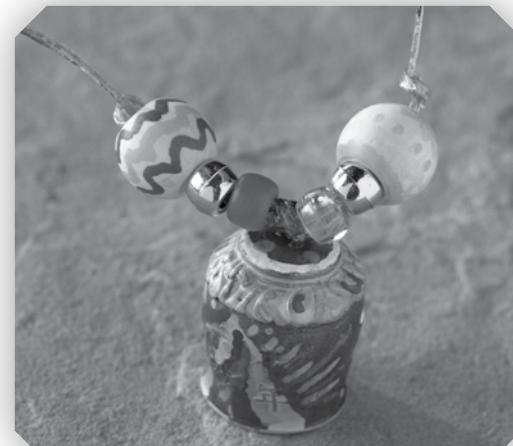
1. Use a permanent marker to write name or initials on the bell. Decorate the bells, using paint markers and permanent markers.



2. Cut a length of lacing, long enough to wear the bell as a necklace or bracelet. String the yarn or lacing through the hole on top of the bell. Then tie a knot above the bell to hold it in place.



3. If desired, string beads onto both ends of the lacing as further decoration. Tie a small knot after the last bead on each side to hold the beads in place.



4. Wear the camel bell as a necklace or bracelet, tie it to a backpack, or hang it on a wall at home.



5. Encourage everyone to interact with the animals in your tent.



OPERATION KID-TO-KID™ ALPACA FARM



What You'll Do

Each day as Tribes enter the Israelite Camp, you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Operation Kid-to-Kid Alpaca Farm. You'll collect 1 piece of Egyptian Gold plus a donation from each Tribe member who is able to contribute. Tribe members will learn about Santiago, Pilar, and Emilio—children in Ecuador whose families have benefited from the gift of alpacas. Then each person will create an Alpaca Pal Puppet as a reminder to pray for their Ecuadorian friends who receive the alpacas.

Your tent is different! Other Tent Hosts are playing the role of a person who left Egypt with Moses. Your conversation can be more present-day, so you can talk about Operation Kid-to-Kid without confusing kids and adults. When your tent is full, ask visitors to come back later in the week.

Tent Layout

Hang the Operation Kid-to-Kid posters inside your tent and the Operation Kid-to-Kid Alpaca Farm sign outside the entrance. Set up the Gracias Giving Pack near the entrance to your tent, and set out your supplies on a low table in the center of your tent.



OPERATION KID-TO-KID™ MISSION PROJECT

HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, please don't turn missions into a contest. This is truly an opportunity to serve. Encourage your Tribe members to participate, but don't offer bribes or rewards.

Supplies



- Gracias Giving Bank*
- large bowl of dry, hard-packed dirt
- large bowl of rich potting soil
- skein of alpaca fleece yarn
- Alpaca Pal Puppets* (1 per participant)
- colorful permanent markers
- wiggly eyes
- Operation Kid-to-Kid Poster Pack*
- Operation Kid-to-Kid Alpaca Farm sign (Cut apart the Shopkeeper signs from the Giant Decorating Poster Set.* Art is also on the Clip Art and Resources CD.)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier



Point Out the Problem

Say: **Imagine being a farmer and living in a place where crops don't grow very well.** Ask:

- ① **What problems would that cause?**
- ② **How would you get money to provide for your family?**

Say: **Some families in the country of Ecuador live way up in high, high mountains. They live so far up that the soil doesn't make very good crops for them to eat or sell.**

Show the two kinds of soil, and have guests feel the dirt and then talk about which kind of dirt would grow better crops. Explain that some farm animals, like cows, can actually pack the soil down with their hard hooves, making it worse!

Say: **When farmers can't grow crops, their kids have empty bellies. Moms and dads can't provide warm clothes. Sometimes kids can't go to school or they get sick from not having good food. But we can help families who are struggling...and give them fleecy, fluffy friends!**

Show the posters of Santiago, Pilar, and Emilio. Read some of the information about them. Point out that alpacas have soft, warm fleece that's valuable to people all over the world. Let guests feel the alpaca yarn and imagine how it would feel to snuggle under a blanket made from the yarn. Explain that alpacas also have "pillows" on the bottoms of their feet (instead of hard hooves) that actually make the soil better for growing crops!

Pour Out God's Love

Say: **When you bring in a \$10 donation, bring it here, and I'll keep all the money together. You can even put it into this fun alpaca bank.**
Demonstrate how the Gracias Giving Bank works.

In the wilderness, the Israelites trusted God to provide for them. Today, God is using you to provide for kids like Santiago, Pilar, and Emilio. And you can give them more than adorable alpacas; you can keep praying for kids in Ecuador, asking God to keep them safe and surround them with people who will show them God's love. Hold up your sample Alpaca Pal Puppet. I'll help you make a fun friend that will remind you to keep praying for kids in Ecuador.

Point out that when your church participates, you'll join World Vision and other VBS programs, and together you could provide for thousands of families in the mountains of Ecuador!

The AlPaca Farmer

During the week, you'll have the chance to talk with Tribe members as they work in your tent. Use the following suggestions for conversation to help families connect Operation Kid-to-Kid to the daily Bible Point as they work on their Alpaca Pal Puppets.



DAY 1

GOD IS WITH US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 14:1–15:21)

► During their wilderness journey, the Israelites faced so many challenges. Some of them didn't want to be traveling in the wilderness, and they got mad at Moses for leading them there. But God was with Moses and the Israelites every step of the way, leading them and keeping them safe. Kids in other countries need to hear about God. They need to know that he is with them every day and every night. Your contribution will help those kids have what they need each day, and they'll also hear about God's love!



DAY 2

GOD GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 16)

► Just think—God is using you to help give kids all the way around the world something they really need! You're helping keep kids healthy and helping parents provide for their families. Way to go!



DAY 3

GOD GIVES US STRENGTH, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 17:8-16)

► Wouldn't it be frustrating to work hard to grow crops...but the soil is just too hard and dry? After all that work, nothing grows! Just think how weak you'd feel. But we trust God to give us strength. And we can help other people trust God, too! You're helping improve the soil for the farmers' crops—and you're showing them God's love at the same time!



DAY 4

GOD SAVES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 12:1-30)

► You may be the first person to help a child in another country learn about God! Not only are you helping that child by giving money to provide alpacas for their family, but you're giving that child the most important news in the world—the good news about our loving, saving God! Thank you!



DAY 5

GOD GUIDES US, SO...TRUST GOD! (Exodus 20)

► I'm so thankful that you're willing to share God's love with a child in Ecuador. That's so awesome! What other ways can you share God's love right here in [name of your community]?



HOLY LAND HINT

Give the donations you collect to your VBS Director. Details about where to send the donations can be found in the Ultimate Director Go-To Guide.

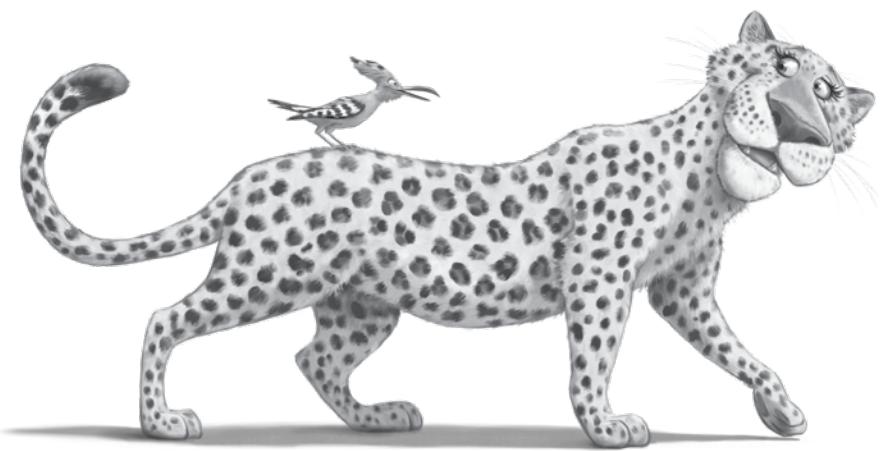


HOLY LAND HINT

Remember, Tribe members who visit your tent may not have visited Moses yet. So please don't reveal what happens in each day's Bible story. Moses wants to keep it a surprise!



Notes



Get Ready to Make the Bible Come to Life!

Thanks for joining the team as a Tent Host at Wilderness Escape VBS!

Your job is easy...but important!

As a Tent Host, you'll play the role of one of the Israelites who've just fled from slavery in Egypt. Each day, you'll welcome families into your tent, teaching them a skill you've learned during your time in Egypt. You'll not only guide kids and adults in unique projects, you'll help them discover how exhilarating (and frightening) it was for the Israelites as they traveled through an unknown wilderness.

"Paws" To Check This Out!



Everything you need to succeed is right in this manual—full supply lists for your tent... cool crafts and activities...practical, field-tested tips...helpful photographs... role-playing scripts...and more!

Questions? Here's how to get answers:

► **First, check carefully through this book.**

There's a LOT of helpful information tucked into these pages. The answer is probably already in your hands!

► **Connect with your VBS Director and leadership team.**

Remember, you're not alone! You're part of a dynamic ministry team, so don't be afraid to take advantage of the people resources that surround you.

► **Ask other VBS leaders through Group's online networking opportunities.**

Join the conversation on our Facebook page at facebook.com/groupvbs. This discussion group connects you with other leaders nationwide so you can share ideas, ask questions, and brainstorm.



And don't forget to pray!

God put you in this VBS leadership role for a reason, and he wants you to succeed.

Ready to change lives?
Open up this manual
and get started!



Did you know?

You can get unique decorations and cool crafty projects for your Wilderness Escape VBS! Visit group.com/vbs or your Group VBS supplier today for great deals on exclusive items.

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