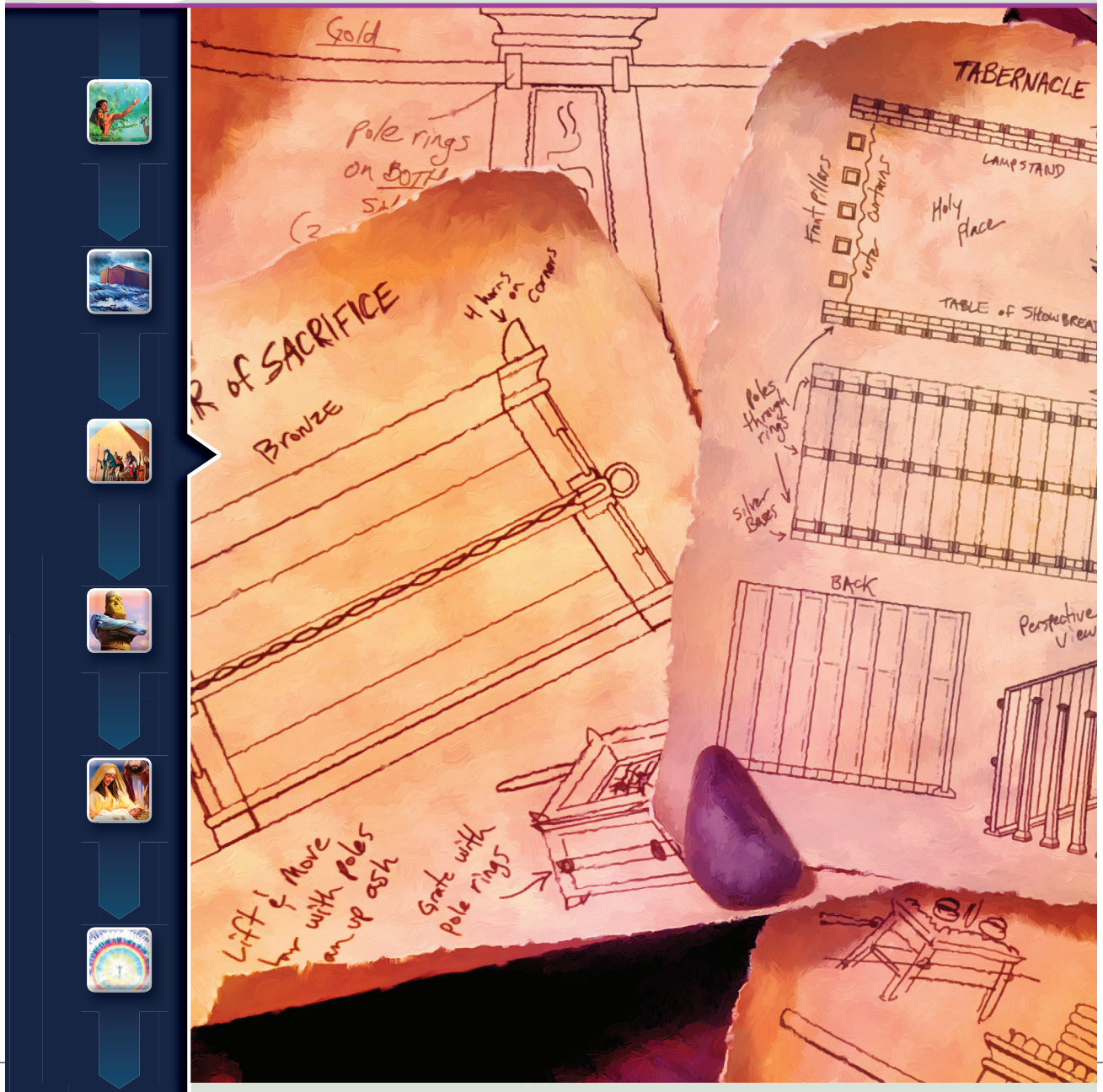
8

Under Construction

Key References: Exodus 35:30-40:38; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 30, pp. 343-358; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 163-168; 182-187; Our Beliefs nos. 12, 3, 22



Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 61.

power**text**

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8).

power**point**

God is present with us when we worship Him together.

Have you ever been a part of building a church? Are you a part of the worship that goes on inside your church? In what way?

The people of Israel had chosen to create and worship a golden calf while Moses, their leader, was up on the mountain talking with God. While God was giving Moses instructions for building a sanctuary so He could dwell with His people, those same people were acting as if God didn't exist.

But finally God and His people were working together once again. Moses gave the people the special directions God had given him for building a copy of the temple in heaven. But God gave more than directions.

God gave Bezalel, of the tribe of Judah, a special ability in crafts. He could make artistic designs and could work in gold, silver, bronze, precious stones, and wood. And He gave Oholiab, of the tribe of Dan, the gift of teaching others.



8

Sunday

READ Read Exodus 36:1-3 and this week's story, "Under Construction."

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to "dwell" in your heart.

Monday

READ Read Exodus 36:4-7.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about the gifts that God has given you and about how you could use those gifts to worship Him.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God how He would like you to worship Him more actively.

Tuesday

READ Read Exodus 37.

DISCUSS Discuss with an adult what each piece of furniture described in this chapter represents. What kinds of worship activities associated with the furniture in the sanctuary could make your family devotions or church worship more meaningful?

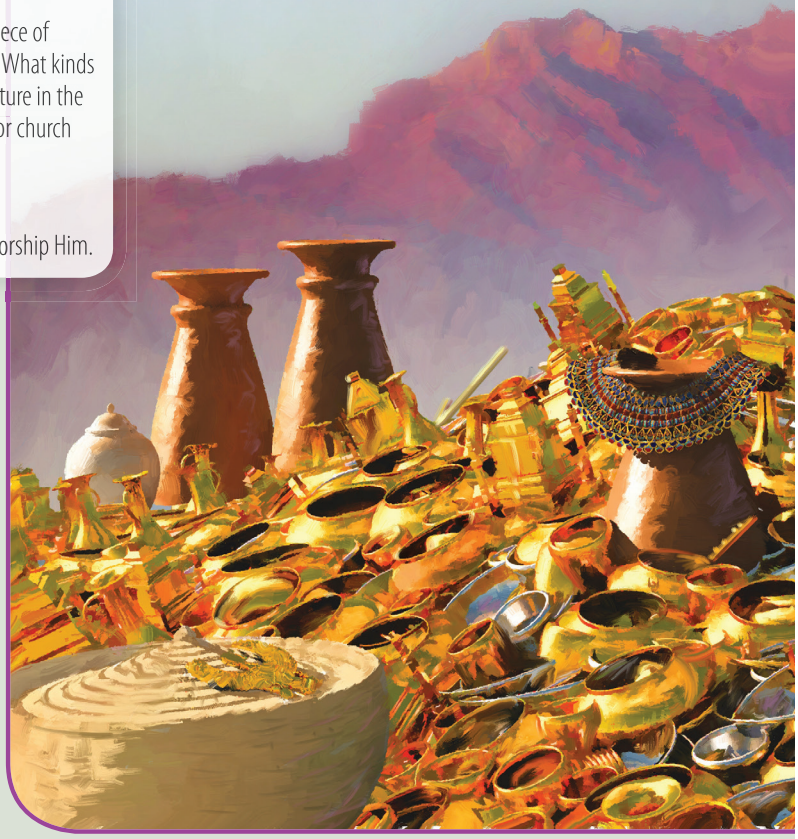
REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you use His gifts to worship Him.

But they were not the only ones. God gave special skills and abilities to many other people as well. Together the people of Israel prepared to build a place where they could worship God together, and where God would live among them again.

The builders and skilled workers were not the only ones involved in this big worship project. Materials were needed. Everything used in making the tabernacle would be brought as an offering by the people. Moses let the people know exactly what was needed. He also told them that God wanted gifts only from those who loved Him and truly wanted to give something for His tabernacle.

So the work began. Each day the



skilled artisans went to work. Each day the people lined up with offerings of gold, jewels, and any other items that might be needed.

One day the artisans and builders came to see Moses. They asked him to stop the people from bringing more offerings. They hardly had room to work for all the gifts the people had brought. They had more than enough.

So Moses gave an order that no man or woman was to make or bring anything else for the building of the tabernacle.

But the work of making a place for God to live among them continued. First 10 large blue, purple, and scarlet curtains made of fine linen and embroidered with cherubim were woven and decorated for the walls of the tabernacle. The curtains were fastened together with loops and gold clasps. Over the linen curtains were placed goat hair curtains. And then skins were placed over everything to protect it.

Frames, silver sockets, and crossbars—all of them covered with gold—



8

Wednesday

READ Read Exodus 38.

DRAW Draw what you think the pieces of furniture looked like: ark (37:1-9), table (verses 10-16), lampstand (verses 17-24), altar of incense (verses 25-29), altar of burnt offering (38:1-7), washbasin (verse 8).

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Talk with God about things that would help you worship Him.

Thursday

READ Read Exodus 40.

RESEARCH In a dictionary or Bible commentary, find the meaning of the following words we no longer use: cubit, cherubim, wick, ephod, onyx, span, filigree.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to get you ready to worship Him with others this Sabbath.

Friday

READ Read Exodus 27:9-19.

SHARE Share the power text with your family.

THINK Think about your favorite part of the Sabbath services.

PLAN Plan a special family worship for Friday evening where you could invite a friend or someone with whom you feel impressed to share a meal, friendly conversation, and a worship experience.

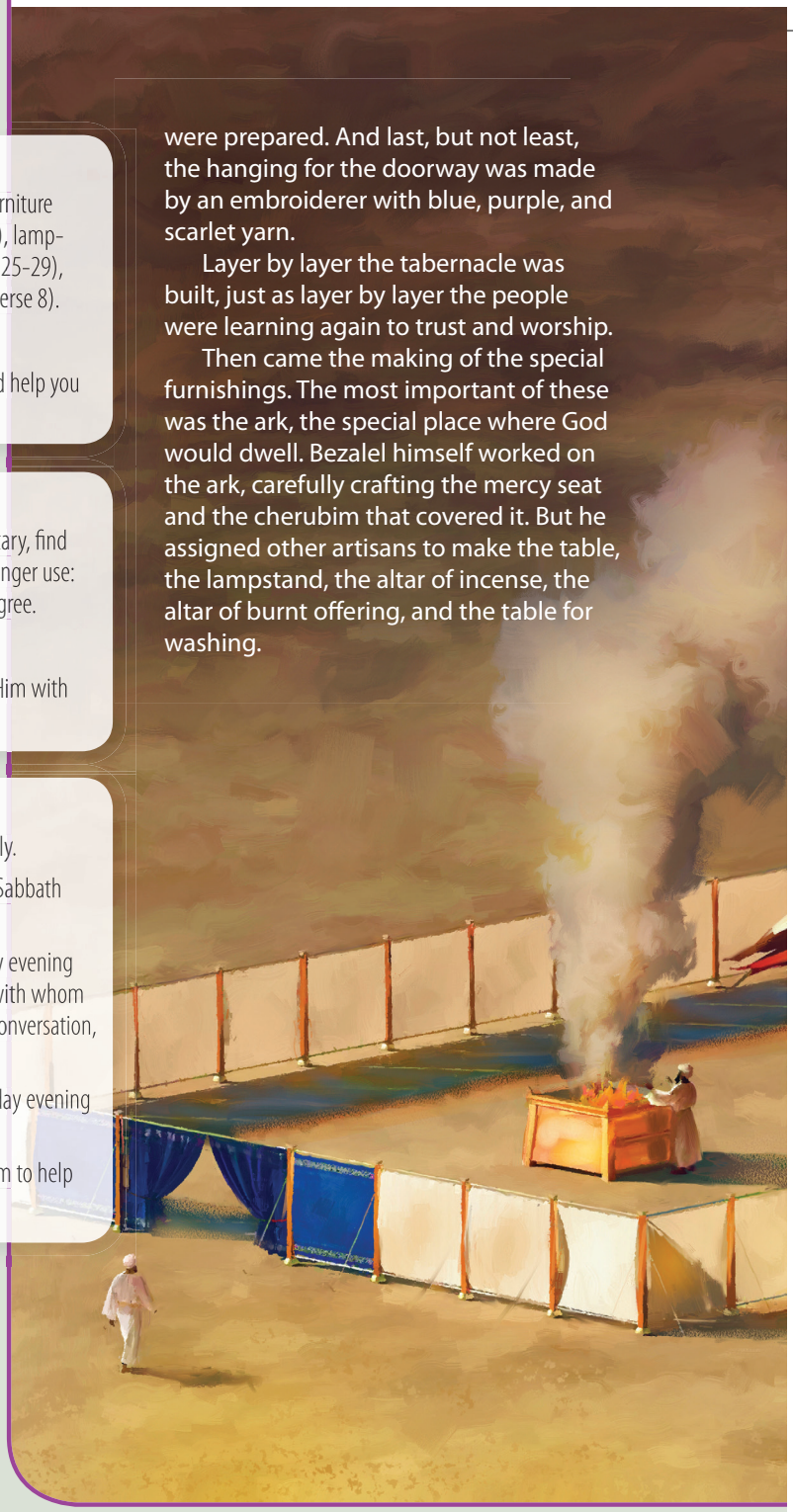
INVITE Invite someone to your home for Friday evening worship or to church on Sabbath.

PRAY Thank God for your church and ask Him to help you participate actively in church worship.

were prepared. And last, but not least, the hanging for the doorway was made by an embroiderer with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn.

Layer by layer the tabernacle was built, just as layer by layer the people were learning again to trust and worship.

Then came the making of the special furnishings. The most important of these was the ark, the special place where God would dwell. Bezalel himself worked on the ark, carefully crafting the mercy seat and the cherubim that covered it. But he assigned other artisans to make the table, the lampstand, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering, and the table for washing.



After that the special clothing and equipment for the priests were prepared.

Altogether the people had brought a little more that 2,024 pounds (1,000 kilograms) of gold for making God's tabernacle. If this much gold were made into a cube, it would be 14 inches (37.25 centimeters) on a side. They had brought 7,582 pounds (3,440 kilograms) of silver, and about 5,337 pounds (2,421 kilograms) of bronze. Not to mention the precious stones, spices, special wood, cloth, and animal skins.

Moses inspected all the work the people had done. And they had done it all according to the directions Moses had given them from God. Moses was pleased, and so was God. God gave Moses special instructions for setting up the tabernacle on the first day of the first month.

When everything was in place, the cloud in which God showed His presence covered the tabernacle. The glory of the Lord filled it. From then on God's presence stayed with His people while they traveled to the Promised Land. When the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, the people packed their camp and moved on. When the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, the people stayed right where they were.

So it is today. God is present with us when we worship Him together.



PUZZLE 8

SPECIAL PLANS

Instructions: The answers to the following questions are either YES or NO. Place the letter that corresponds to the correct answer in the right column.
Puzzle Clue: God joins us when we _____ _____ _____

Questions:

	YES	NO	
1	W	~~L~~	W
2	A	O	
3	D	R	
4	S	E	
5	H	L	
6	I	A	
7	S	P	
8	G	R	
9	R	O	
10	E	D	
11	T	O	
12	A	O	
13	G	R	
14	E	A	
15	T	F	
16	E	H	
17	E	A	
18	G	R	

1. Did God give the ability and talent to the people who would construct His sanctuary? (Exodus 36:1, 2)
2. Did the workers tell Moses that the people were not bringing enough materials to make the sanctuary? (Exodus 36:4, 5)
3. Did the skilled workmen make the tabernacle using 10 curtains of black and gold silk? (Exodus 36:8)
4. Did they make a tent to cover the ram skins dyed red? (Exodus 36:14, 19)
5. Did they make the frames and crossbars of acacia wood? (Exodus 36:20, 31)
6. Did the workers overlay the frames, the crossbars, and the rings to hold the crossbars in gold? (Exodus 36:34)
7. Did Bezalel build the ark and overlay only the outside of it in pure gold? (Exodus 37:1, 2)
8. Did they make of pure gold the plates, dishes, bowls, and pitchers for the table? (Exodus 37:16)
9. Did they make the lampstand from two talents of pure gold? (Exodus 37:24)
10. Did they make the altar of burnt offering and its utensils of pure bronze? (Exodus 38:1)
11. Did all the posts of the courtyard have silver bands? (Exodus 38:17)
12. Did the total of 603,550 people include everyone over the age of 18? (Exodus 38:26)
13. Did they mount the onyx stones in gold settings? (Exodus 39:6)
14. Did the "ministers" have pure gold bells attached to the hems of their robes? (Exodus 39:25)
15. Did Moses bless the workmen after he inspected the finished work? (Exodus 39:43)
16. Did Moses and Aaron set up the tabernacle as God had commanded? (Exodus 40:16-18)
17. Did a cloud filled with God's light by day and fire by night cover the tabernacle? (Exodus 40:38)
18. Did the cloud lift above the tabernacle when God wanted the Israelites to worship Him? (Exodus 40:37)