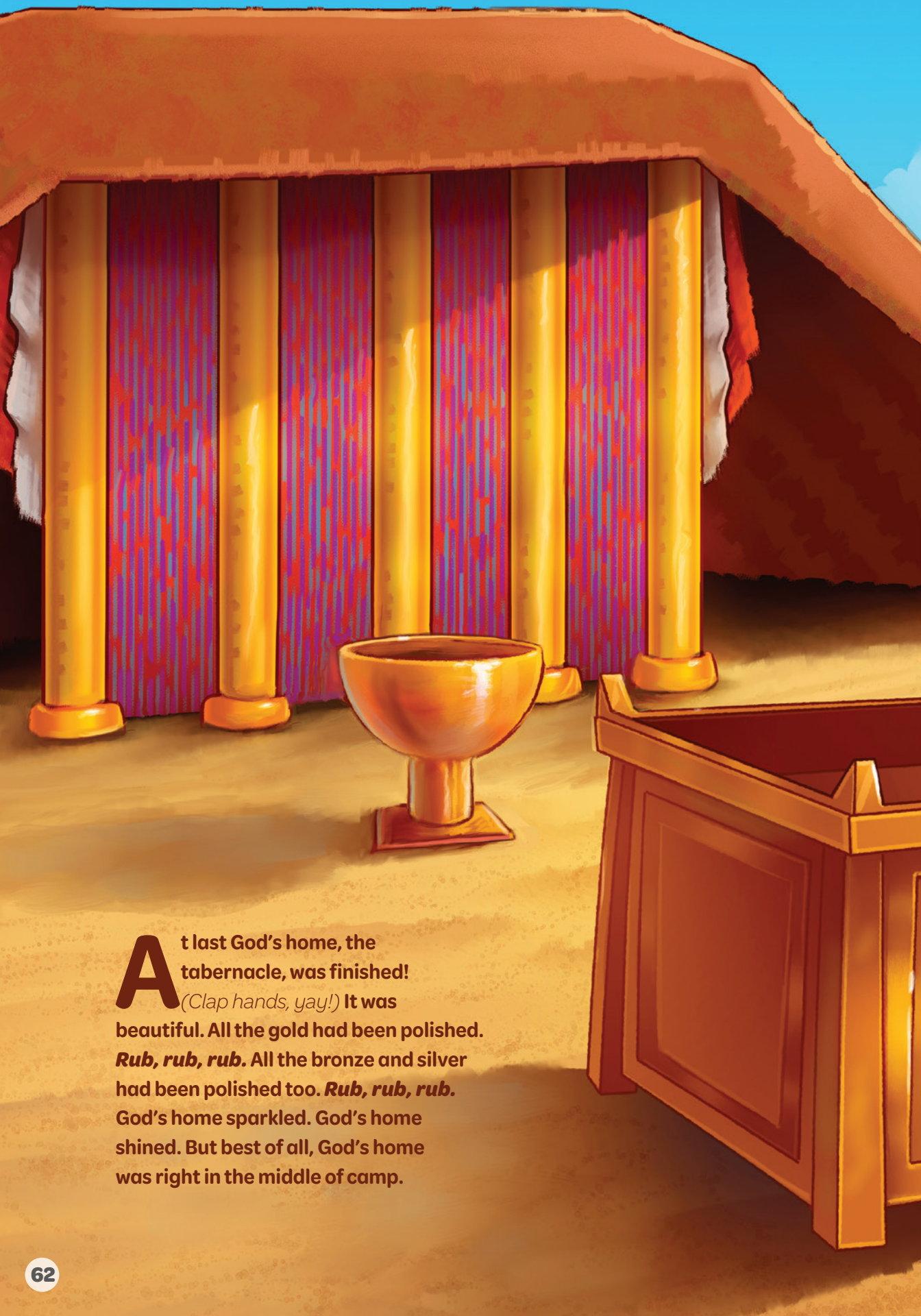
BIG IDEA: God wants to be close to me.

Week 8

God's Home Is Finished

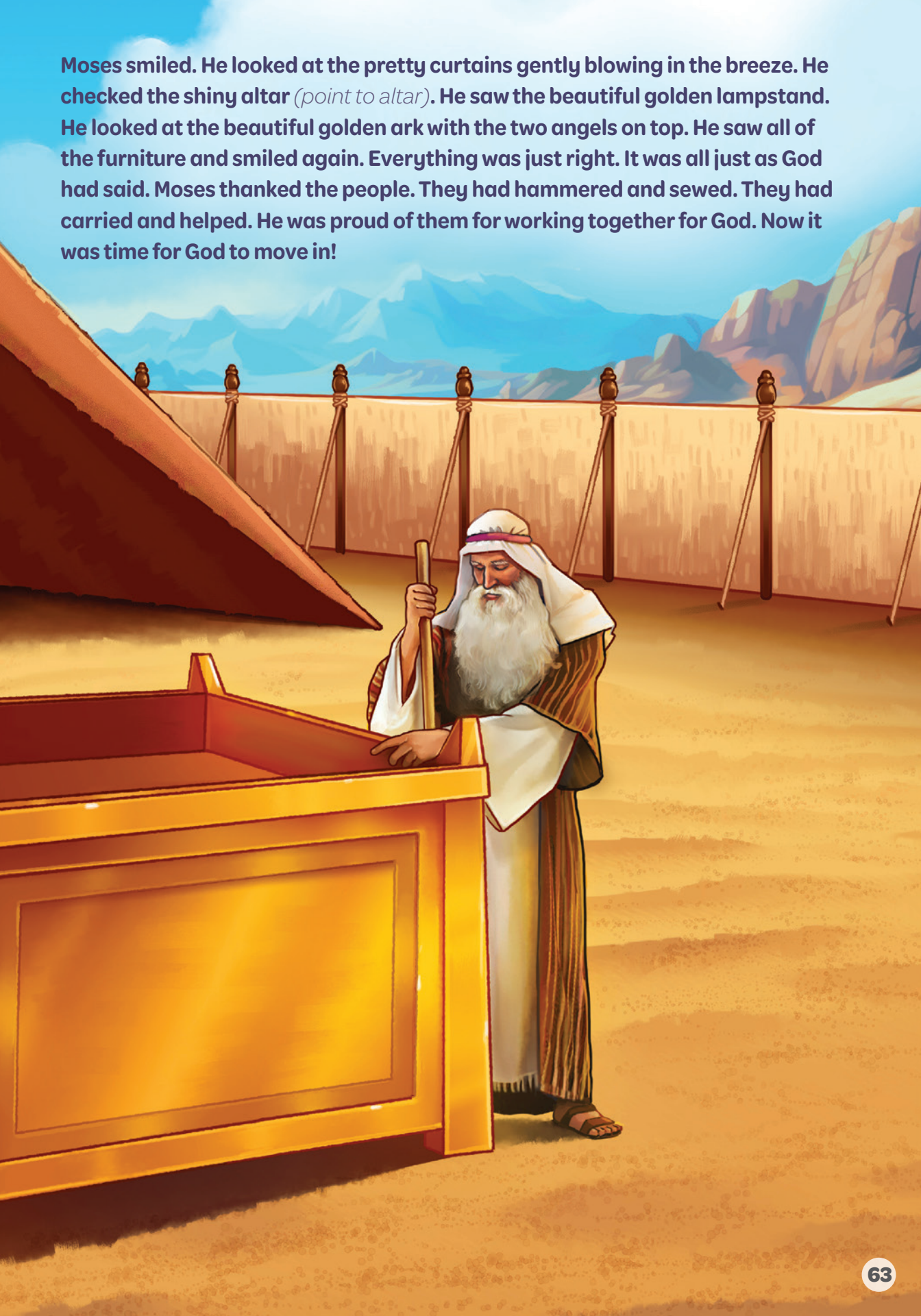


This lesson is based on Exodus 40 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 343-358.



At last God's home, the tabernacle, was finished! *(Clap hands, yay!)* **It was beautiful. All the gold had been polished. *Rub, rub, rub.* All the bronze and silver had been polished too. *Rub, rub, rub.* God's home sparkled. God's home shined. But best of all, God's home was right in the middle of camp.**

Moses smiled. He looked at the pretty curtains gently blowing in the breeze. He checked the shiny altar *(point to altar)*. He saw the beautiful golden lampstand. He looked at the beautiful golden ark with the two angels on top. He saw all of the furniture and smiled again. Everything was just right. It was all just as God had said. Moses thanked the people. They had hammered and sewed. They had carried and helped. He was proud of them for working together for God. Now it was time for God to move in!

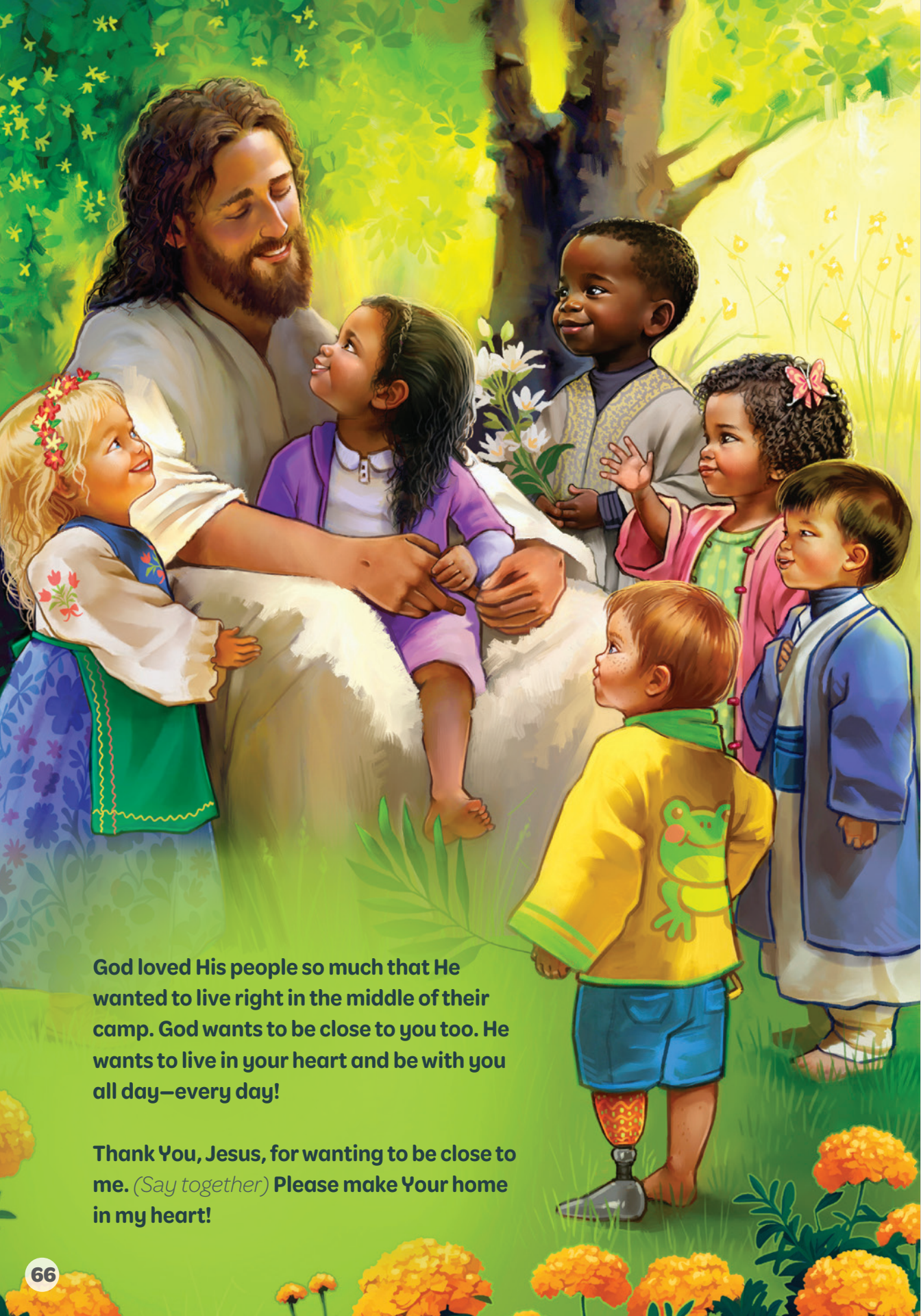


The people watched and waited. ***Shh! What would God do?*** God's special cloud began to move! It floated closer . . . closer . . . closer. Then the cloud moved right over and inside the tabernacle. God was in His new home! The people cried happy tears. Their hearts were so full of joy! They whispered prayers of thanks that God had decided to live so close to them.





When the cloud lifted from God's home, the people knew it was time to pack up and start walking. ***Follow, follow, follow.*** If the cloud was still, they stayed in their camp. The cloud floated above God's home during the day. At night a fire glowed inside the cloud so that all of God's people could see it. They never felt alone—they knew God was right there with them.



God loved His people so much that He wanted to live right in the middle of their camp. God wants to be close to you too. He wants to live in your heart and be with you all day—every day!

Thank You, Jesus, for wanting to be close to me. *(Say together)* **Please make Your home in my heart!**

play throughout the day

Learn

Talk about how Jesus fills us up with love and kindness when He lives in our hearts. We then have lots of kindness to give to others. Think of ways God uses our senses to be kind to others. For example: eyes *(without asking, look out for a job that needs to be done)*, ears *(listen for someone who needs help)*, smell *(give flowers to a friend)*, touch *(give a hug to someone who is sad)*, and taste *(bake something healthy and yummy to give to someone else)*.

Explore

If weather permits, go on a nature walk and find a nice grassy place to lie down and watch the clouds. Alternatively, look up "cloud watching" videos online. Look at the clouds; talk about what it would be like to follow God's cloud and see the cloud right near your home. Thank Jesus for leading you and being close to you.

Connect

Ask your child to close their eyes tightly. Hold your child's hand. Say, "Even though you can't see me, you know I am here because you can feel my hand. God is like that too! We can't see Him, but we can feel He is close to us."

Sing

Share that when Jesus lives in our hearts, He helps us make good choices and helps us to be loving and kind. Ask your child if they want to invite God into their heart. Sing a song, such as "Into My Heart," together.

Create and Pray

Draw and cut out a large heart shape. Have your child color it in. Then let them hold it as you pray together and ask Jesus to come into your hearts.



Extension weekly memory verse: "He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents



God wants to be close to you. Let that sink in. He desires more than anything to be your closest friend, your encourager, and your leader. How blessed the Israelites were to have physical evidence of God's closeness and guidance in their lives.

When you look back over your life, I'm sure you can pinpoint moments you have felt closest to God. How amazing is it that God desires to be close to us *always*! He wants to have a continuous relationship with us, not one that stops and starts as our emotions or situations change. God promised to be with the Israelites *always*. Through all their travels, in the hills, and in the valleys. That promise is ours too. He is willing to show up every day, in every moment. May we open our eyes to see the many ways God's wonderful cloud of comfort and protection is surrounding us today.

When we choose to let God in and be close to Him, everything changes! We're able to speak softly and kindly to our children, even when they misbehave. Our burdens lighten, our joy is not dependent on circumstances, and we can love more freely. We are so blessed to be able to say that our hearts can be His sanctuary and that He can dwell in us.

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father . . . , that Christ may **dwell** in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:14-19).

As you walk through this week knowing that Christ is dwelling in your heart, may you begin to comprehend the many dimensions of God's love and may you be filled to overflowing with His never-ending joy and peace.