BIG IDEA: I can work with others to help God.

Week 7

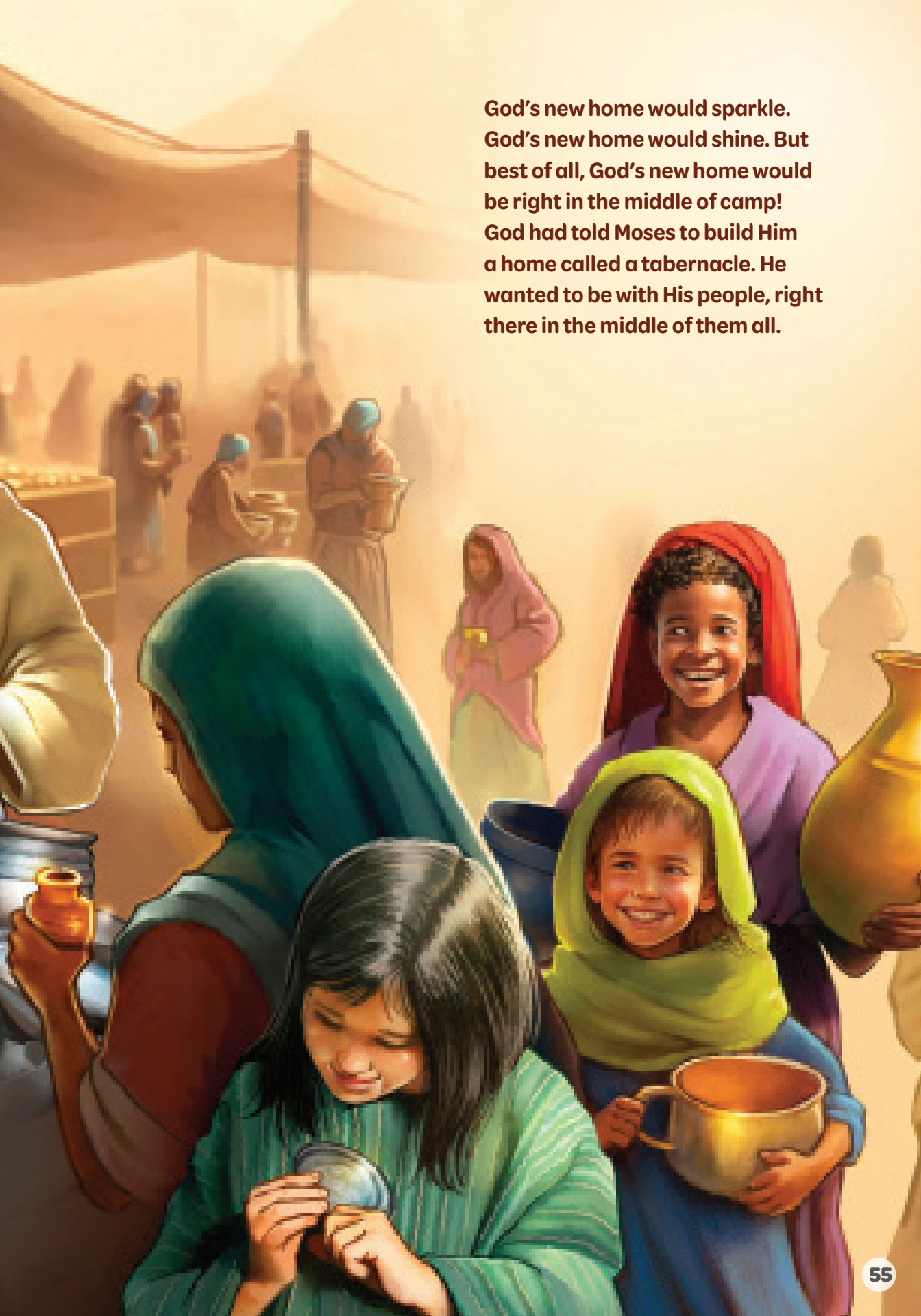
God's Special Home



This lesson is based on Exodus 25-28; 30; 31; 36-39; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 343-358.



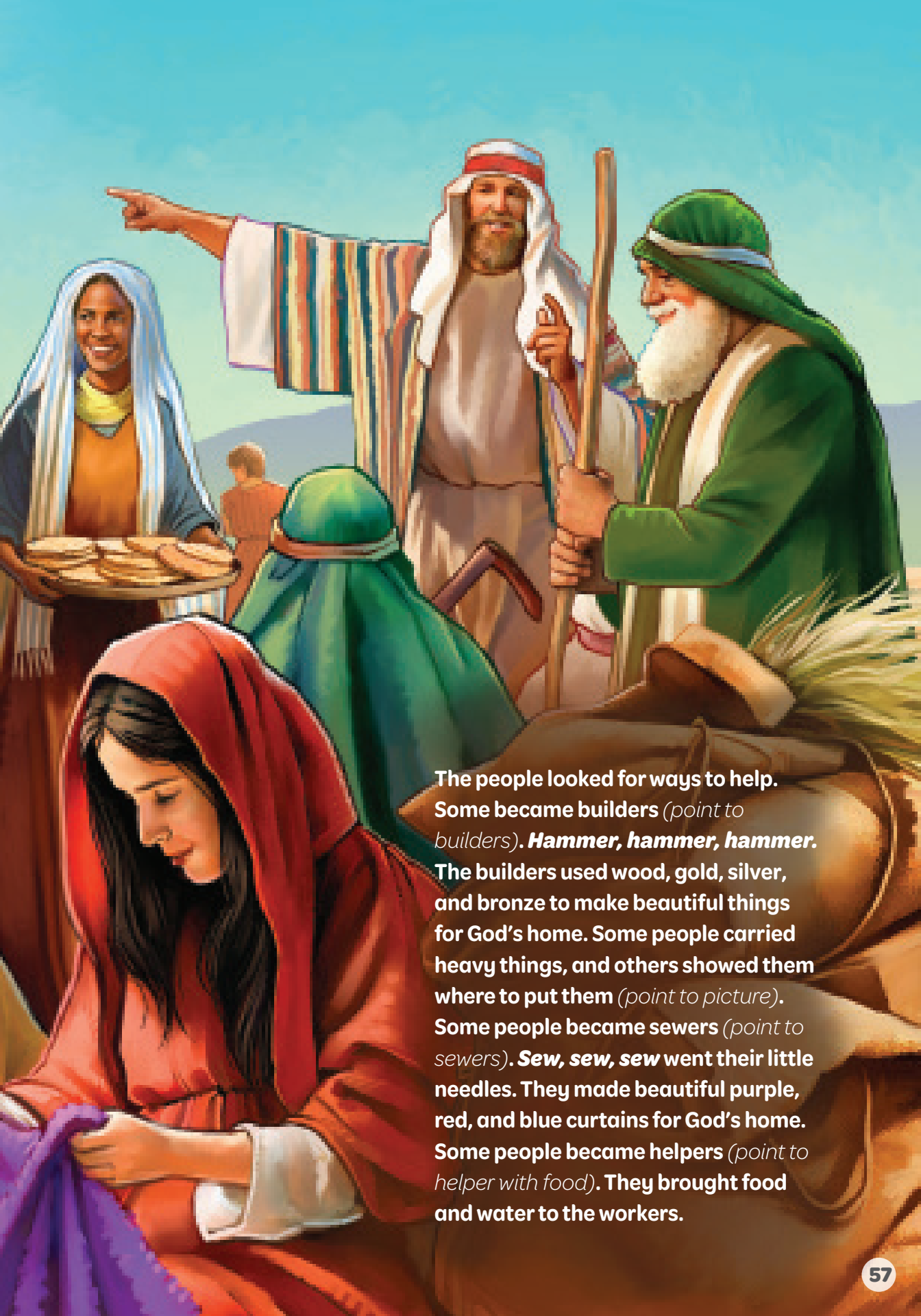
Clink, clink went the silver coins into a basket. The little girl clapped her hands. She was so happy to give to God! Another child waited behind her, carrying a gold pot. It was for God too! Everyone in camp lined up to happily give their precious things to God. They had shiny gold rings, pots, and other things. They had cups and bowls in silver and bronze. They had jewels that sparkled in the golden sun. They gave these things to make God's new home.



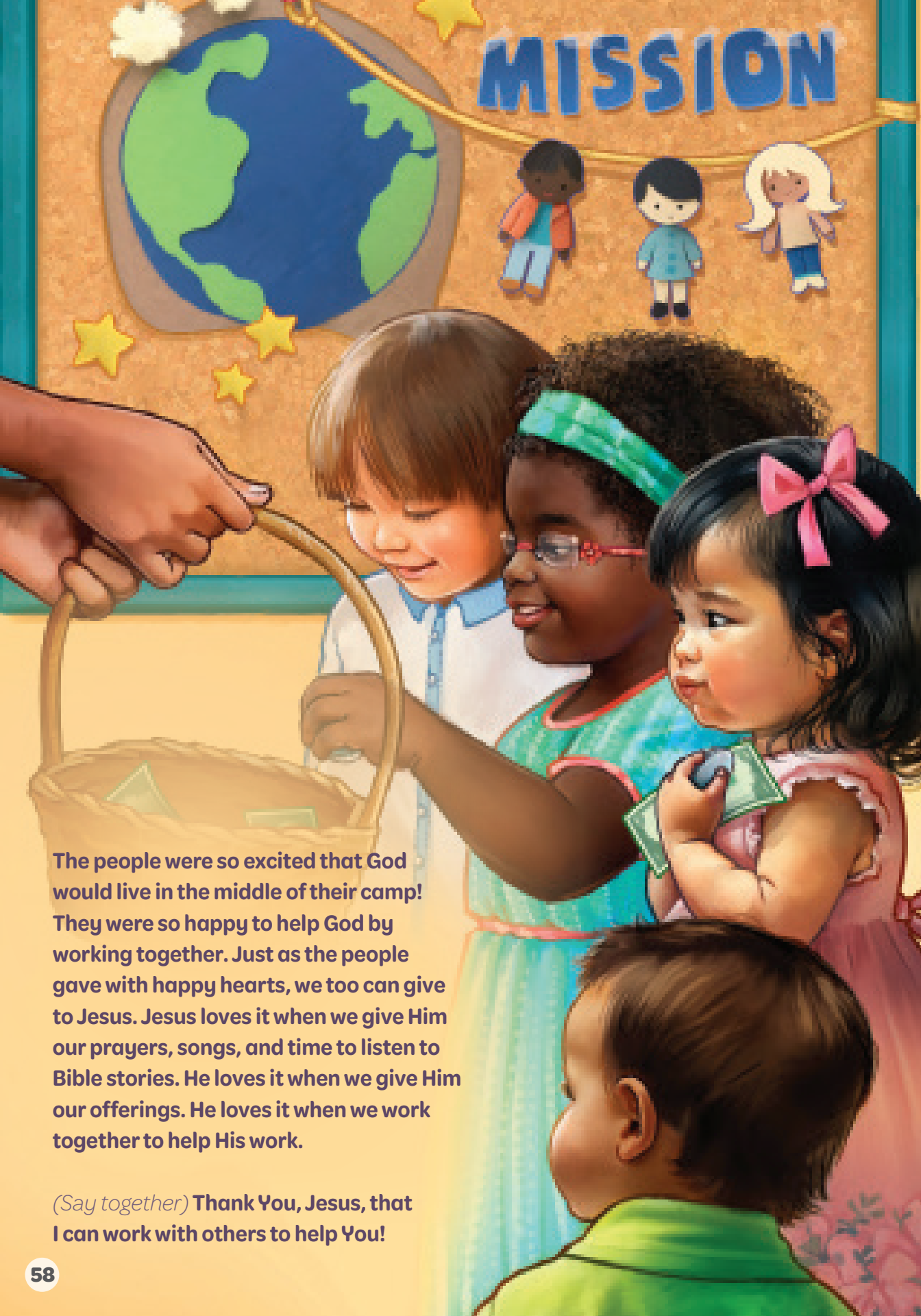
God's new home would sparkle. God's new home would shine. But best of all, God's new home would be right in the middle of camp! God had told Moses to build Him a home called a tabernacle. He wanted to be with His people, right there in the middle of them all.

The baskets of coins filled up . . . up . . . up. ***Clink, clink.*** The people kept giving. The piles of pots grew higher . . . and higher . . . and higher. Until . . . stop! Moses held up his hands. He counted the baskets. There was more than enough! He was so happy. The people had worked together to give lots and lots of precious things to God. Now they could make God's beautiful home.





The people looked for ways to help. Some became builders *(point to builders)*. ***Hammer, hammer, hammer.*** **The builders used wood, gold, silver, and bronze to make beautiful things for God's home. Some people carried heavy things, and others showed them where to put them** *(point to picture)*. **Some people became sewers** *(point to sewers)*. ***Sew, sew, sew*** **went their little needles. They made beautiful purple, red, and blue curtains for God's home. Some people became helpers** *(point to helper with food)*. **They brought food and water to the workers.**



The people were so excited that God would live in the middle of their camp! They were so happy to help God by working together. Just as the people gave with happy hearts, we too can give to Jesus. Jesus loves it when we give Him our prayers, songs, and time to listen to Bible stories. He loves it when we give Him our offerings. He loves it when we work together to help His work.

(Say together) **Thank You, Jesus, that I can work with others to help You!**

play throughout the day

Create

Create a mini tabernacle using blocks or cardboard.

Explore

Talk about how the Israelites gave God their special things with happy hearts. Let your child help with some jobs this week to earn a few coins. Remind your child on Sabbath morning about the coins they earned and ask them if they would like to give them to Jesus. Put them in the offering at Sabbath School or church.

Practice

Practice teamwork throughout the week. Think of tasks your child can help with, such as folding clothes or tidying up. In all the little jobs this week, ask them to help as a team. Affirm their special qualities: cheerfulness, carefulness, eagerness, etc. God has made us all different so we can share our talents and work well together.

Connect

Think about an act of kindness you could do together this week to be like Jesus and love others. It could be making a card together for someone sick, making rice pudding or baking muffins for a neighbor, or helping Grandma in her garden. Thank God that we can work together with Him to help others.

Prayer

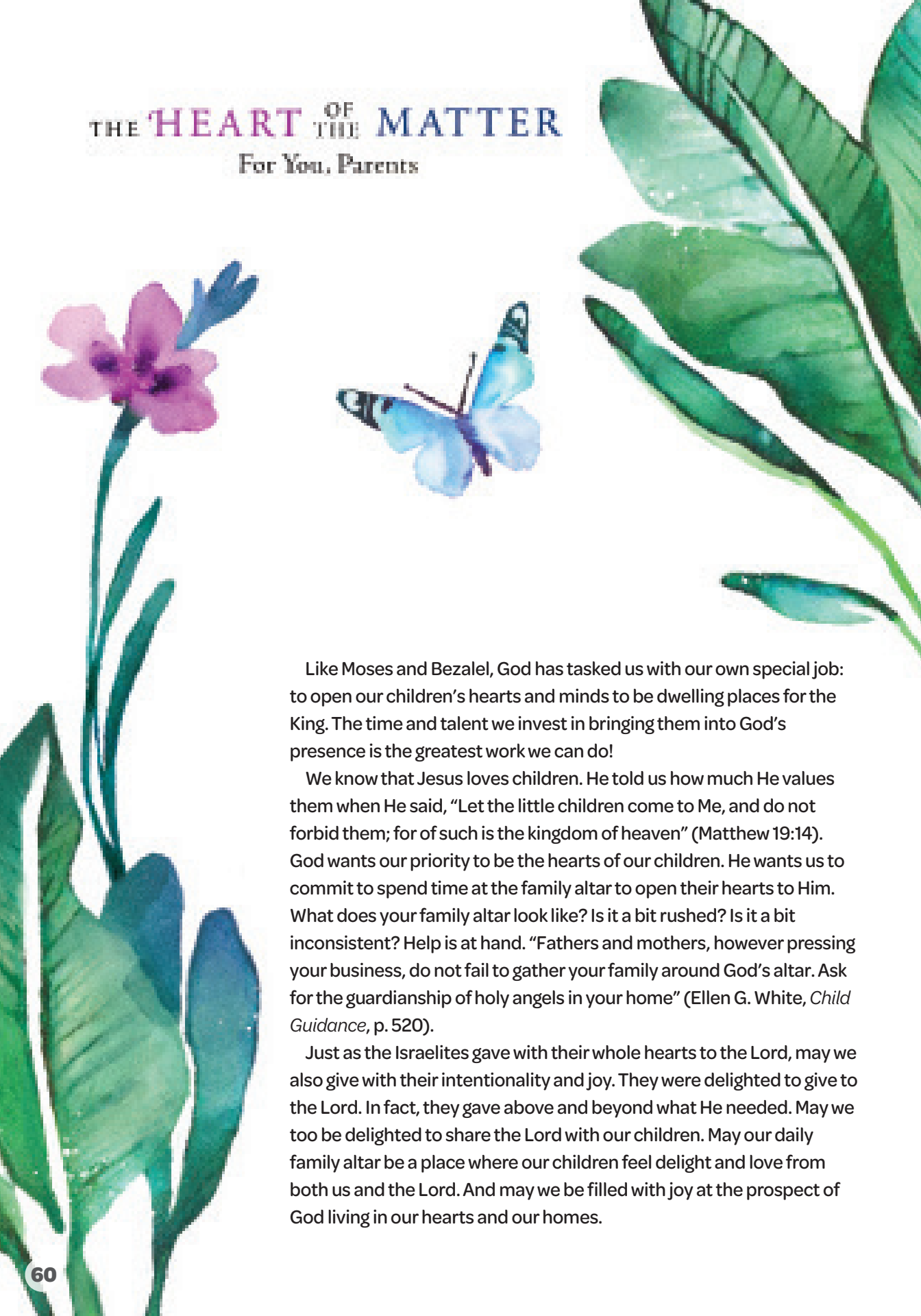
Thank God that He asks for our help, even though He is the king of the universe! Ask Him to show you how you can help Him this week. As a family, think about or write down names of people in need whom you think God is asking you to encourage and help.



Extension weekly memory verse: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents



Like Moses and Bezalel, God has tasked us with our own special job: to open our children's hearts and minds to be dwelling places for the King. The time and talent we invest in bringing them into God's presence is the greatest work we can do!

We know that Jesus loves children. He told us how much He values them when He said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). God wants our priority to be the hearts of our children. He wants us to commit to spend time at the family altar to open their hearts to Him. What does your family altar look like? Is it a bit rushed? Is it a bit inconsistent? Help is at hand. "Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home" (Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 520).

Just as the Israelites gave with their whole hearts to the Lord, may we also give with their intentionality and joy. They were delighted to give to the Lord. In fact, they gave above and beyond what He needed. May we too be delighted to share the Lord with our children. May our daily family altar be a place where our children feel delight and love from both us and the Lord. And may we be filled with joy at the prospect of God living in our hearts and our homes.