

Exodus 25-31 Bible Study

Objective: This study guide explores Exodus chapters 25-31 through the interdisciplinary STEAMS approach, connecting Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the construction of the Tabernacle and the design of the priestly garments. Participants will gain insight into how each of these fields contributes to a deeper appreciation of the intricate details, symbolic meanings, and spiritual significance of these chapters.

Key Components

Science (S): The Materials of the Tabernacle and Their Properties

- ❖ **Topic:**
Explore the physical and chemical properties of the materials used in the construction of the Tabernacle as described in Exodus 25-27, focusing specifically on gold, silver, bronze, acacia wood, and linen. Analyze how these materials were chosen for durability, resistance to wear, and sacred symbolism.
- ❖ **Project:**
Material Analysis:
Create an infographic that reflects on each material used to build the Tabernacle and reflect on what each element contributes to the sanctuary made for God (Exodus 25:8).
Gold: Investigate its malleability, resistance to tarnish, and conductivity. Discuss why gold was used for the Ark of the Covenant, lampstand, and other sacred objects (Exodus 25:10-40), focusing on its symbolic representation of purity and divine presence.

	<p>Silver: Analyze the durability and reflective properties of silver and how it was used for the bases of the Tabernacle's frames (Exodus 26:19-25). Discuss its symbolic role in representing redemption and value.</p> <p>Bronze: Research the hardness and corrosion resistance of bronze, especially when used in objects like the altar and its utensils (Exodus 27:1-3). Reflect on its symbolic association with judgment and strength in the sacrificial system.</p> <p>Acacia Wood: Examine the strength, rot resistance, and availability of acacia wood in the Sinai region. Discuss why it was chosen for the structure of the Ark and other key parts of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:10, 26:15), and how its durability symbolizes enduring faithfulness.</p> <p>Linen: Study the fibers of fine linen and its resistance to wear and its significance in the curtains of the Tabernacle (Exodus 26:1, 27:9-19).</p>
<p>Technology (T): Tools and Techniques for Building Sacred Objects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Explore the ancient technologies and tools used to fashion the sacred objects of the Tabernacle, such as the Ark of the Covenant, the menorah, and the bronze basin found in Exodus 25-30. ❖ Project: Method Replication Study: Research the methods used to create the ornate and sacred objects described in Exodus 25-30. Based on this research, design a mock toolkit guide that includes descriptions of tools like chisels, hammers, and casting molds. The toolkit guide should

	<p>provide instructions on how each tool would have been used in the building process, reflecting both the practical and symbolic roles of these objects.</p>
<p>Engineering (E): Structural Design and Construction of the Tabernacle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Analyze the engineering principles behind the construction of the Tabernacle as a portable and stable structure. ❖ Project: Tabernacle Blueprint: Develop a detailed blueprint of the Tabernacle, focusing on its dimensions, framework, and layout (Exodus 26). Highlight the specific features that made the structure both portable and stable, ensuring it could be set up and dismantled multiple times during Israel's journey. Consider the engineering challenges and how they were addressed in the design.
<p>Arts (A): Symbolism and Aesthetic Design in Sacred Garments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Delve into the intricate artistic symbolism behind the design of the priestly garments in Exodus 28:2-43. Explore how each garment, through its color, material, and design, not only served a practical function but also communicated deep spiritual truths. Discuss where we see a reflection of the garments in modern day praise dance and worship. ❖ Project: Priestly Garment Design: Create a visual representation of the priestly garments, focusing on the ephod, breastplate, and robe. Participants can use drawing or digital art, or fabric samples to recreate these garments, paying attention to the

	<p>symbolism of the colors, patterns, and materials. Each element of the design should be accompanied by a detailed explanation.</p>
<p>Mathematics (M): Measurement and Proportions in the Tabernacle Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Topic: Examine the specific measurements and proportional relationships found in the construction of the Tabernacle and its furnishings, as described in Exodus 25-27. Focus on how these dimensions create balance, symmetry, and functionality in the design of this sacred space.❖ Project: Tabernacle Measurement: Using the dimensions given in Exodus 25-27, create scaled diagrams of key Tabernacle furnishings (Ark, Table, Altar) and the Tabernacle structure itself. Focus on identifying and calculating the ratios between different measurements (length, width, and height), and discuss how these proportions contribute to the balance and functionality of each item. Analyze how these proportions create a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing design that reflects order, symmetry, and divine precision.

Social Studies (SS): The Role of the Tabernacle in Israelite Society

- ❖ **Topic:**
Examine the social and religious role of the Tabernacle as the center of worship and community life for the Israelites.
- ❖ **Project:**
Social Function of the Tabernacle:
Create a mock discussion panel, including Q&A, that explores the Tabernacle's role in shaping the social and spiritual life of the Israelites. Include topics such as the priesthood's duties, the significance of sacrificial rituals, and the Tabernacle's role as a meeting place for God and His people. Discuss how the physical space influenced the communal identity and daily practices of the Israelite society.

Key Takeaways

As we conclude our study of Exodus 25-31, we see that the Tabernacle was more than just a physical structure; it was a divinely inspired space where every material, tool, measurement, and design element reflected God's holiness and desire to dwell among His people. The construction of the Tabernacle and the priestly garments were acts of worship, requiring skill, precision, and obedience.

Just as the Israelites poured their best efforts and resources into building a space for God's presence, we too are called to offer our talents, skills, and resources in service to God, creating lives and communities that reflect His glory and holiness.