

Exodus 35-40 Bible Study

Objective: This study guide explores Exodus chapters 35-40 through the interdisciplinary STEAMS approach. These chapters focus on the actual construction of the Tabernacle, emphasizing the obedience of the Israelites in following God's detailed instructions. Participants will explore the collaborative efforts and skills that went into building this sacred structure and how the project unified the community under God's covenant.

Key Components

Science (S): Sustainability and Resource Use

- ❖ **Topic:**
Examine how the Israelites sustainably sourced materials from the wilderness to construct the Tabernacle. Reflect on how they gathered gold, silver, bronze, acacia wood, linen, and other materials in an environment where resources were limited.
- ❖ **Study Focus:**
Resource Management Analysis: Study how the Israelites managed to source materials sustainably, focusing on the environmental challenges of the wilderness. Research ancient practices for resource management and discuss how the Israelites demonstrated environmental stewardship while building the Tabernacle.

<p>Technology (T): Transportable Structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Analyze the engineering required to make the Tabernacle portable. The Tabernacle had to be sturdy and functional while being able to be dismantled, transported, and reassembled as the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness. ❖ Project: Tabernacle Engineering Blueprint: Design a blueprint of the Tabernacle, focusing on the engineering principles that allowed it to be both sturdy and portable. Explore how its design balanced structural integrity with the need for mobility.
<p>Arts (A): Collaborative Art in Worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Analyze the allocation of resources and manpower in the construction of the Tabernacle in Exodus 35-36. Explore how materials were proportionally divided and how labor was distributed to ensure the project's completion. ❖ Projects: Collaborative Art Piece: Create a group art project that reflects the communal nature of building the Tabernacle. Each participant can contribute a piece of the project (such as a drawing or textile sample) that reflects one element of the Tabernacle, symbolizing how the Israelites' contributions came together to form a unified whole. Art and Worship Reflection: Write an essay on how art and craftsmanship were used in worship. Focus on how the artistic contributions to the Tabernacle fostered a sense of collective worship and reinforced the covenant between God and the Israelites.

<p>Mathematics (M): Allocating Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Explore the numerical aspects of justice and restitution in Exodus 32-34. Analyze the consequences for those who participated in idolatry and the steps taken for repentance and restitution. ❖ Projects: <p>Resource Allocation Chart: Create a simple chart that shows how materials were proportionally divided for the Tabernacle's construction based on the types of materials mentioned in Exodus 35:4-9.</p> <p>Labor Distribution Plan: Develop a plan that shows how labor was divided among the Israelites, focusing on the roles of skilled artisans like Bezalel and Oholiab, as well as general laborers.</p>
<p>Social Studies (SS): Community and Collective Worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topic: Reflect on the communal aspect of the Tabernacle's construction and how this shared project unified the Israelites. Consider how the Tabernacle served as both a physical and symbolic representation of their covenant with God. ❖ Projects: <p>Community Building Reflection: Write a reflection on how the construction of the Tabernacle fostered unity and a sense of shared purpose among the Israelites. Discuss how large communal projects, such as this one, contribute to the social cohesion of a group.</p> <p>Tabernacle and Covenant Presentation: Create a presentation that explores how the Tabernacle acted as a physical representation of the</p>

	covenant between God and Israel. Focus on how this shared worship space reinforced their collective identity as God's chosen people.
--	---

Key Takeaways

The book of Exodus emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's instructions, the role of law in shaping just societies, and the beauty of worship through service and collective effort. Through the construction of the Tabernacle, the Israelites demonstrated their commitment to God's covenant, working together to create a sacred space where God's presence would dwell among them.

Using the STEAMS approach to study the Bible allows us to see how every aspect of life—whether it's the materials we use, the skills we develop, or the art we create—can be an expression of our faith. The study of Exodus teaches us that faith is not only personal but also a collective journey, where the community's unified efforts reflect their dedication to justice, equity, and worship.