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“

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## Inspire (for parents)

I once heard a story about a little boy who had been riddled with stomach pain. His parents took him to the doctor, and the doctor decided an ultrasound was in order.

The doctor began describing to the parents the parts of the body they were looking at while the boy lay still, listening. The doctor then moved the ultra-sound wand across his own heart and showed the boy his beating heart. The boy looked at the doctor and said, “Hey, where is Jesus?” His parents smiled as they watched the doctor’s face. The doctor said, “Excuse me? Did you ask: Where is Jesus?” The little boy proceeded to tell the doctor he had indeed asked where Jesus was. He wanted to know why he couldn’t see Him because he knew Jesus lived inside his heart.

As parents, we know we can’t physically see Jesus dwelling within us, but we can, however, model with our actions that His Spirit lives in us. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and

self-control are all attributes of God’s Spirit manifested in us, and are ways our children see God dwelling in us.

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## Getting Started

**Scripture:** Exodus 25—40 (The Tabernacle)  
**Main Point:** God’s Spirit Dwells with His People

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

## Equip (for parents)

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:16, “[We] are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in [us].” When God called Moses up to Mt. Sinai, He revealed His instructions for the tabernacle, the ark, and other structures for living in relationship with Him. The tabernacle was to be the place where God would dwell among the people, and where they could worship Him. The importance of the tabernacle covers most of the book of Exodus.

The instructions for the tabernacle are magnificently detailed. Through Moses, God gave His people exact measurements, weights, sizes, colors, proportions, etc., for every curtain, hook, beam, covering, and decoration to go in the tabernacle. He also gave careful instruction on how to build it, which way to twist the curtains to cover it, and where on it to carve or draw depictions of the cherubim.

In order to build the tabernacle, God asked for a freewill offering from the people. Most of the materials God required for use in the tabernacle were costly: gold, bronze, and silver, as well as fabrics and animal skins dyed scarlet, blue, and purple. Blue and purple dyes came from the enzymes of rare snails, and scarlet dye came from the eggs of an insect that fed on oak trees; each of which were difficult to acquire in large-enough quantities to easily produce. The luxuries of these items were not a reflection of the poor Israelite wanderers, but of God’s kingship and glory.

The tabernacle was a model for both the physical temple and the spiritual temple to come. Just as God’s Spirit dwelled in the tabernacle, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. ☺



## Support

(for parents & kids)

➤ **JUST FOR FUN**, sometime this week read through the biblical account of the tabernacle, ark of the covenant, and God dwelling with His people in **Exodus 40** while sitting around the dining table. Have an empty chair placed at the table, and tell your children it is to remind them that God dwells, or lives with us. Ask them what they might say to Jesus if He was physically sitting right there with them. Then remind them that Jesus’ Spirit does live within us, and they can talk to Him everyday.

Talk with your children about how exact God’s details were for building His dwelling place. Share with them that just like God’s Spirit dwelled in the tabernacle, His Spirit can live inside of us because He chose to allow us to be His temple.

When you are finished, share with your children that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear it in church. Close your time in prayer, thanking God that He sent His Spirit to dwell in us. ☺