

## **Lesson 61: COLORS IN THE TABERNACLE**

### **STORY:**

During the third month after Moses had freed the children of Israel from their slavery in Egypt, they all came to a mountain in the wilderness. Does anyone know the name of the famous mountain that Moses went up? (Mount Sinai)

Here, the Lord wanted to make a special covenant with the Israelites. A covenant means a promise that would be made between the Israelites and the Lord, that they would worship and obey Him, so that He could bless and lead them and protect them.

So the Lord said to Moses, "In three days, I will come to you in a thick cloud," and He said that the people should prepare for His coming. Moses told the Israelites to wash themselves and their clothing, and to be ready on the third day.

But you know, the Lord said that the Israelites must not come near the mountain! He told Moses to set boundaries around the bottom of the mountain, and tell the people that they must not touch the mountain. You see, when the Lord came down onto that mountain, it would become a very, very holy place, and the Israelites were not ready to be near such holiness. Only Moses and Aaron and Joshua would go up onto Mount Sinai, and only Moses would go to the top.

So on the third day, in the morning, there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud came down onto the mountain. There was also the sound of a very loud trumpet, and all the people trembled at all this lightning and noise. Then smoke and fire also appeared on the mountain, and the ground shook like an earthquake! And yet Moses climbed up into all of this amazing spectacle, to speak with God Himself.

And what did the Lord tell Moses up on Mount Sinai? The first and most famous words that the Lord spoke there were the Ten Commandments. But the Lord told Moses many other things as well. He had many careful instructions as to how the Israelites should live -- what their laws should be. And then the Lord also described a special church that they should build for worship, and this place would be called the Tabernacle.

### **(Show pictures of the Tabernacle, and the things inside it.)**

The Lord told the Israelites to build the Tabernacle in a certain way, using certain materials and certain colors. This was because those materials represented something heavenly. The Israelites weren't able to understand much about heaven at that time, so a tabernacle built out of materials that showed a picture of heavenly things would help keep them in contact with heaven.

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The tabernacle was actually a big tent. Why do you think the Lord told them to make a tent instead of a building? **(Because they would be traveling a lot, and a tent could be taken down and carried.)**

So the walls of the tabernacle were actually curtains, made of fine linen cloth. And do you know what colors were used? Red, purple, and blue. These three colors represent a deep love of truth and goodness. What is truth? **(True ideas about things, especially about God and how we should live.)** What is goodness? **(Caring about people, and doing good and kind things.)** Why is it important to learn to love truth and goodness? Will that bring us closer to the Lord?

Other colors in the tabernacle were the colors of the metals that were used: gold, silver, and bronze. One of those metals represents loving the Lord. Which do you think that is? Which is the most precious? Yes, gold represents loving the Lord. Silver and bronze are about loving true ideas, and about loving to do good things in our daily life.

So there were reasons for all these special colors: red, blue, and purple; gold, silver, and bronze, and that's why they were used in the Tabernacle. They all show something about loving the Lord, loving true ideas, and loving to do good things. Today we'll make a craft using these colors, to remember the special colors of the Tabernacle.

### **PROJECT:**

**Supplies:** Craft sticks.  
Glue.  
Yarn in red, blue, and purple.  
Gold, silver, and bronze glitter.

### **Ahead of time:**

Glue pairs of craft sticks into crosses, letting them dry. Cut lengths of yarn. What works best is if you first measure how long a piece it will take to fully wind around and fill the craft stick cross, then divide that into thirds. Cut pieces of red, blue, and purple yarn the same length as these thirds. Tie a starting piece of yarn around the center of each craft stick cross.

### **What to do with the kids:**

Each child will take a cross with a starting piece of yarn. Show them how to wind over the first arm of the cross, then around and under, then over the next arm, around and under, and so on. When the piece of yarn is running out, tie a new color on and continue. When the cross is full, tie the end under any string to secure it. Then they may decorate it further by adding dabs of glue and sprinkling on glitter.