

Text Exodus 29:43-46, 40:34-38,  
Ephesians 2:11-13, Hebrews 10:19-22  
Focus Jesus brought us near to God  
Verse Ephesians 2:13 “. . . in Christ Jesus you  
. . . have been brought near . . .” NKJV

## Songs of Praise and Worship

### Prayer/Offering

Story 1 The Tabernacle (Bible)

Craft 1 Tabernacle (coloring)

### Snack Time

Story 2 Near to God (show and tell)

Craft 2 Near to God (bracelet)

### My Bible Verse

Story 3 What is the Tabernacle? (puppet)

Craft 3 Praying Hands (stickers)

Story 4 God is Near Me (poem)

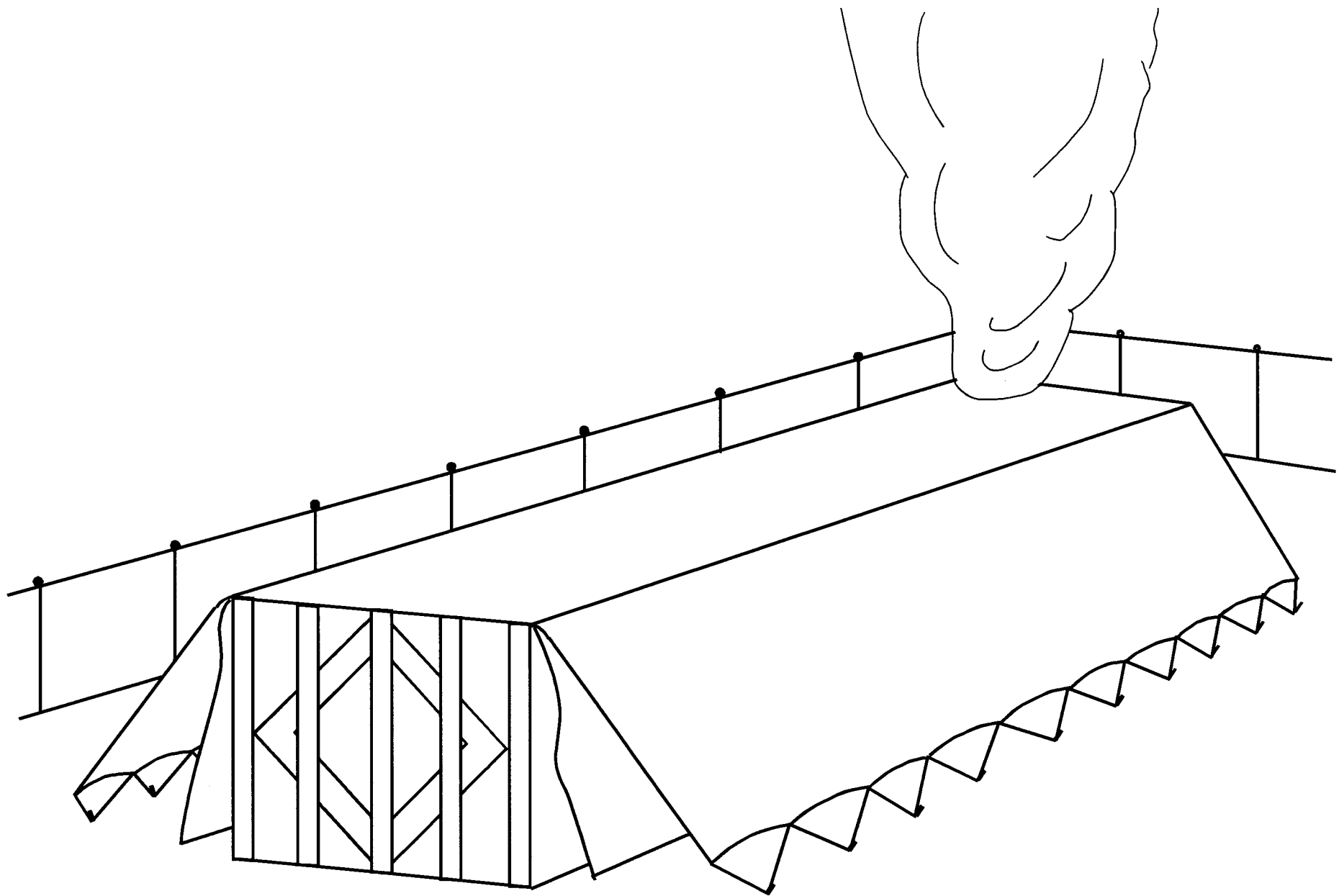
Craft 4 God is Near (coloring)

# The Tabernacle

Exodus 29:43-46, 40:34-38, Ephesians 2:11-13,  
Hebrews 10:19-22

Water and Sky Scene, Desert Overlay, Moses (14), Men (87), Crowd (87A), Men (89),  
Women (97A), Children (108), Pillar of Cloud (173), Group of Tents (208),  
Tabernacle (209)

1. **God was with Moses and the Israelites in the desert.** *Display Water and Sky Scene, Desert Overlay, Tabernacle, Pillar of Cloud (over Tabernacle), Group of Tents, Moses, Men, Women, Children, Crowd.*
  - A. The Israelites were God's own people.
  - B. God did not want to be far away from them.
  - C. God wanted to be near them.
  
2. **God made a way for Moses and the Israelites to come near to Him.**
  - A. God told Moses to make a special tent called the tabernacle.
  - B. The tabernacle was a very holy place where the Israelites could come near to God.
  - C. When the Israelites came there as God commanded, He put aside their sins.
  - D. Everyone came to the tabernacle to worship God.
  - E. Moses went to the tabernacle to talk with God as a friend.
  
3. **Jesus brought us near to God.**
  - A. Jesus came to show us God.
  - B. Jesus took away our sins forever.
  - C. When Jesus is in your heart, you can come near to God any time.



The Israelites came near to God at the Tabernacle

## Near to God

### Preparation:

You will need a comfortable chair where you can sit and hold a child on your lap.

### What to Tell Them:

Who would like to help me tell this story? *Choose a child and have them sit in your lap.*

God is so big and so strong. He is the creator of the whole world. But even though He is so big, He doesn't want to be far away from you. He wants to be near you. He wants you to know Him.

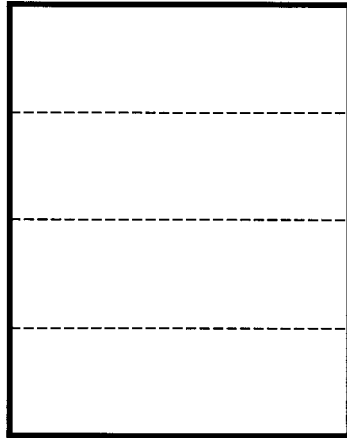
It's just like when I sit down in this chair and have *child's name* come and sit on my lap. I do this just so that I can talk with *child's name*. I not only want to talk with *child's name*, but with each of you. God is the same. He wants to be near you.

Copy this page with "Hearts" onto red paper. Cut out "Hearts." Punch holes at small circles. Thread piece of ribbon through holes. Have children string paper beads on ribbon. Tie ends to make bracelets. Make paper beads per the page titled "Instructions for Paper Beads."

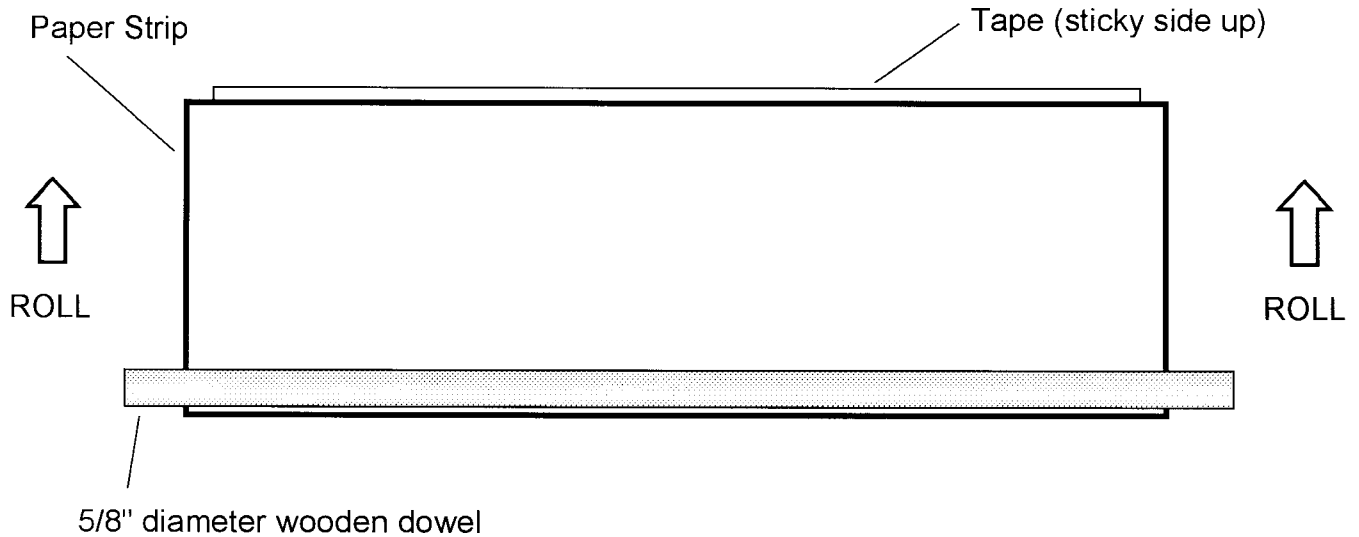


# Instructions for Paper Beads

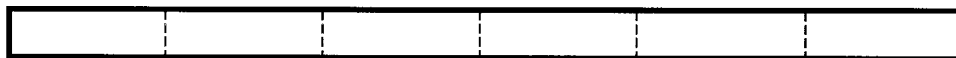
Cut a full sheet of colored paper into four equal strips as shown below. Cut at locations shown by dotted lines. NOTE: One full sheet makes enough paper beads for 2 children.



Lay paper strip on flat surface. Place tape along long edge of paper strip. Turn paper strip over so sticky side of tape is up as shown below. Use 5/8" diameter wooden dowel to roll paper into a tube. Tape will hold paper tube together. Remove dowel.



Cut paper tube into six paper beads as shown below. Cut at locations shown by dotted lines.



## What is the Tabernacle?

Characters: Teacher  
Nutmeg (or your favorite puppet)

NUTMEG: What is the tabernacle?

TEACHER: The tabernacle was a special place where God came to be near His people.

NUTMEG: What did the people do at the tabernacle?

TEACHER: People went there to worship God. It was a special place where God could meet with His people.

NUTMEG: I've never seen the tabernacle.

TEACHER: We don't need the tabernacle now to come near to God. Jesus brought us near to God. He lives in us now.

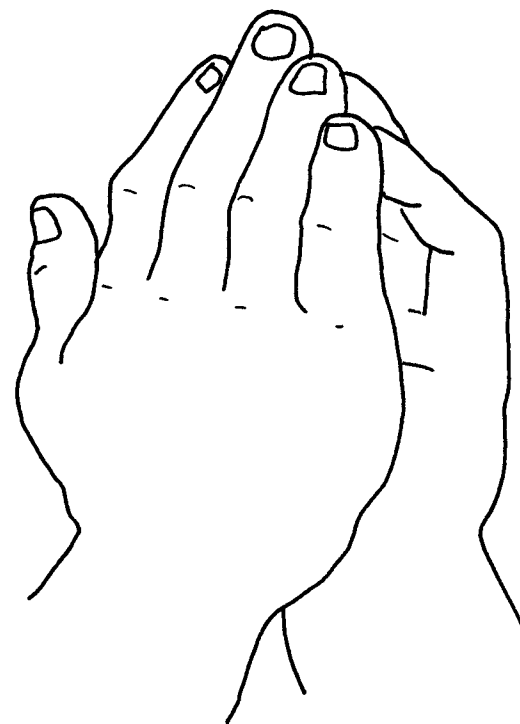
NUTMEG: Does that happen when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts?

TEACHER: Yes. God is near every believer.

NUTMEG: Can we talk to God anytime?

TEACHER: Yes, we can know God and talk with Him every day.

Copy this page onto colored paper. Cut out on outer solid line and fold on dotted line to make a card. Have children put stickers on the card.



...in Christ Jesus  
...you have been brought near...  
Ephesians 2:13 NKJV



# God is Near Me

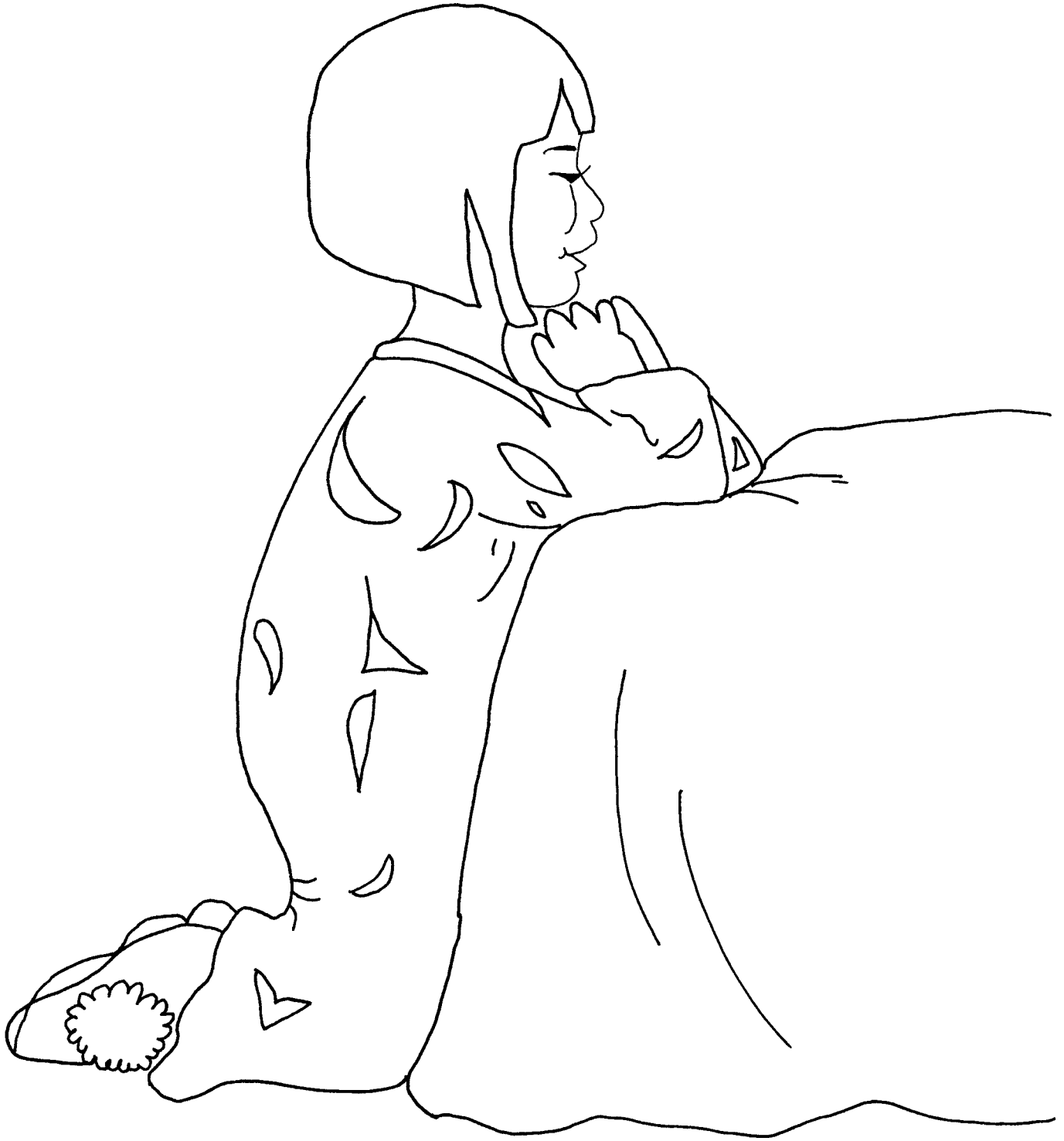
God is near me,  
Every day.  
I love to talk to Him,  
And pray.

*Point to heaven.*

*Sweep arms over head.*

*Hug self.*

*Bow head, fold hands.*



God is near me every day,  
I love to talk to Him and pray.