



**Aim:** To help the child to recognize and respect the **Tabernacle** in our Churches.

**Room Setting:**

All are seated in a circle in the room.

**Parent:** Welcome the child and the other members of the family.

- Invite all to become quiet and think of Jesus saying to his disciples: "Peace be with you". Answer Jesus by saying "And with you too".
- Allow a few minutes for this.

**Parent:** Invite the child and the other members of the family to share what they see when they come into Church. Affirm each answer.

**Parent:** Ask:

- Which of these is very special? Can you say why?

**Parent:** Now say: "The Tabernacle has a very a special place in our Churches. Let us see why":

**Parent and other members of the family:** (P=Parent, M=Family member)

- P. The word "tabernacle" comes from the Latin word "tabernaculum" (ta-ber-na-cu-lum) which means "tent" or "hut".
- M. When God's Chosen People were escaping from slavery, God commanded Moses to set up a special tent among the people whenever they paused for a rest on their journey through the desert.
- P. They called it the "Tent of Meeting" because Moses spoke to God inside the tent.
- M. You could call it "God's Tent" or "Hut" among the people.
- P. It was the place where God stayed with his people all during their journey through the desert.

**Parent:** Ask:

- Can you now say why we call that special place in our Churches "the Tabernacle"? Allow each one to freely contribute an answer.

**Parent:** Now ask:



- When people come into Church before going into the benches they do something special. What is it called? Allow all to answer freely. (Some may say: "Make the Sign of the Cross")

**Parent:** Yes, they do make the Sign of the Cross but they also go down on one knee.

P. Anybody know what this is called?

M. They Genuflect (they bend their knee) because Jesus is present in the Tabernacle.

P. We believe that the Consecrated Host (the Holy Bread) is really and truly the Body of Jesus Christ.

M. After Holy Communion the priest places the extra Hosts in the Tabernacle.

P. This means that Jesus is always there in our Churches, so that when we come to Church we can talk to him just as Moses talked with God in the Tent of Meeting in the desert.

M. Jesus is in the Tabernacle for 2 reasons:

P. So that we can visit him and speak to him.

M. So that when the priest visits people who are old and very sick, he can go the tabernacle and take out some of the Body of Christ and bring it to them in Holy Communion.

**Parent:** How do we know that Jesus is Present in the Tabernacle? There are two signs:

1. The red light (the Tabernacle Light) near the Tabernacle.
2. The Tabernacle veil covering the Tabernacle.

**Celebration**

**Parent:** Let us show one another how to genuflect.

Perhaps we can say: "**My Lord and My God**" like the Apostle Thomas did when the Risen Lord Jesus appeared in the Upper Room at Easter after he had risen from the dead.

