



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: Instructions

Suggested Week of Use: January 26, 2025

Core Passage: Exodus 25:1-9; 31:1-6

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### News Story Summary

The historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris suffered extensive damage as a result of a fire on April 19, 2019. When French President Emmanuel Macron inspected the landmark last November, he declared that the workers had “achieved what was thought impossible.” Not only had they restored the 850-year-old cathedral to its original, dazzling beauty, but their labors also, in Macron’s words, provided the remedy for a “national wound.”

It wasn’t easy. Two hundred and fifty different companies and two thousand experts and craftsmen contributed to the work. In U.S. dollars, the restoration surpassed \$750 million, all of it financed by donations from one hundred and fifty nations around the globe.

For more information on this story, search “impossible restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral.”

### Engage

To replace the Engage activity, play a “higher or lower” game using the questions below. Divide the group into two teams. Allow one team to guess a number in response to the first question. Then, allow the other team to guess if the correct answer is higher or lower. Record each team’s responses on the board, but do not reveal the correct answers yet. Alternate guessing teams for each question.

- How old is Notre Dame Cathedral? (862 years)
- How many different companies were involved in the restoration? (250)
- How many total workers? (2,000)
- How much did the restoration cost? (more than \$750 million)
- What percentage was raised by donations? (100%)
- Contributions came from residents in how many different countries? (150)

Read the news summary about Notre Dame’s restoration above. Use that information to identify the correct answers for each question, as well as the game scores for each team. If a team correctly guessed higher or lower, it gets a point. If not, the team making the original guess gets a point.

Share that this session examines the Israelites’ construction of the tabernacle in the wilderness. Urge adults to consider similarities between this project and the restoration of Notre Dame. Say: *The biggest similarity is that both were built as centers of worship for the glory of God.*

## Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, refer back to the news story about the restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral. Remind adults of President Macron’s statement that the restoration healed a “national wound.” Discuss what Macron meant by that. Ask: *What spiritual wounds was the Tabernacle intended to heal? How can our church provide similar healing and hope to our community for God’s glory?* Close in prayer.