

God's WORTHshop is far beyond a collection of projects that become ho-hum activities to keep hands and minds busy, through long 'golden years' days of feeling like you've been shelved, by God and those around you. Though it may seem overly simplified, there is great truth to the axiom - "If you're still breathin', God has need of you... or moreso, you have need of Him."

It would be short-sighted to think that God's WORTHshop projects are just for the silver-haired.

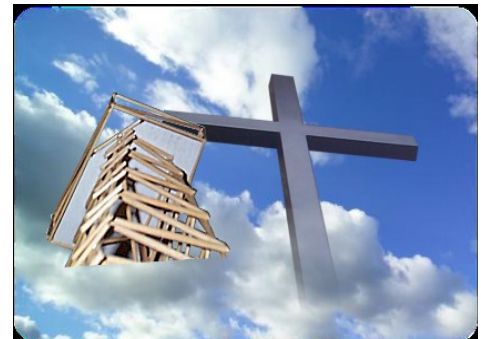
God's WORTHshop projects have a two-fold purpose:

- (1) Assemble the projects while learning heavenly truths, often represented by items and instructions in the project.
- (2) The finished kit (project) then becomes a toolkit used by faith-based leaders, in basements, backyards, or jungle clearings.

Theme: **Patterns**

(Note: Review the Safety, Hygiene, and Disclaimer Guidelines addendum.)

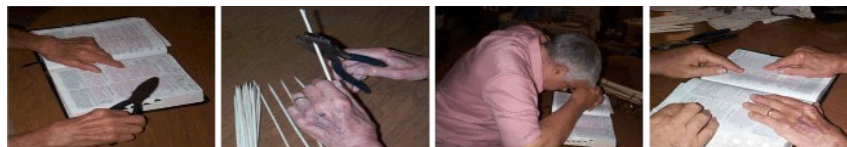
Towers mentioned in holy scripture, are the focus of many very powerful life principles beginning with the very young. The High Tower project is designed to be a fun hands-on activity partnering a teen or adult with a much younger person. The lesson is "patterns". It can be adapted to the attention span and intellect of the hearer(s).



In those days a tower was crucial to protecting ones crops and cattle against theft, weather, fire, etc. The tower was their communication as they'd build a fire on top and signal to others. Towers often were their shelter of protection against the elements. Note: Many towers had their sides covered. A man's tower also indicated how dedicated he was in building things.

While scripture speaks much about towers and godly principles learned through them, scripture speaks much more about PATTERNS... for godly living and construction of all sorts of things. Towers and bridges, then and now, use the shapes of 3 (triangle) and 4 (rectangle) so often together.

We'll see the patterns for godly living first, and then apply it to construction.



Scriptural

Structural

Spiritual

Signaling

Scriptural

- The Bible delivers on its promise in 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17... "all scripture" is valuable for

- accomplishing “all good work”; that certainly includes building real towers and model towers.
- Matthew 6:33 gives us good footing in any task large or small, we set out on, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
 - Real towers in Bible times served even more than the many uses we have today. The list might begin with watching for poachers, fires, enemies, animal management, and communication that just starts the list. Most of the towers were enclosed so that people and livestock could hide inside when needed. It's beautiful to read scriptures that call God our “High Tower”. “The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.” 2nd Sam 22:3. (also, Ps 18:2)
 - Luke 14:28 prepares us with a small parable (story) of another man to build a tower. That story is so very important that we even touched on it in the Sweet Tower project. This preparation parable teaches several powerful principles we must build into the character of every young person and young Christians. Count the cost in materials, manpower, talent etc that just start the list. The second principle is equally important; our testimony. People are watching us even when we least expect it, even when we don't feel cheerful or want to do our best. Most of all, Satan is watching our every move to find fault with our efforts and attitudes.
 - You'd think that doing God's work according to His direction would cause Him to clear away all our hurdles and opposition. Nehemiah found that to be far from actual. In rebuilding the Holy City Jerusalem, his work crew fought against Mockery, Conspiracy, Extortion, Compromise, Slander, and Treachery. Some folks that just sat back and let others do the work and some complained about financial issues as chronicled in the Old Testament book of Nehemiah.
 - In whatever format your High Tower project takes, realize the real lessons taught have far more to do with spirituality and strength of character than any physical tasks accomplished. The key phrase is 'patterns of protection'.
 - Moses was given the pattern for the tabernacle- Heb 8:5, Jesus is our pattern- 1st Timothy 1:7, our works are patterns to others- Titus 2:7,

Structural

(Note: Please review the Safety and Hygiene Guidelines Document.)

- Preparation should contain much prayer.
 - It would be most helpful, particularly with younger students to create a display tower before group time.
 - Set your mind to help your builders to try to imagine the long ago builders, and their challenges. Also use phrases that remind your builders they are to use this knowledge to share and disciple others.
 - Have adequate adult supervision where students are younger.
- Tools and materials can be substituted with availability. Some suggestions are:
 - Use bamboo skewers available at most craft stores and large department stores. Bamboo is much easier to work with than wooden dowel rod in many cases. Some “instant weld” glues are very dangerous. I used a low temp cheap hot melt glue gun. (about \$3.)
- Pattern size depends largely upon the length of bamboo sticks and how you plan to use the

finished tower. My tower is 4 identical sides 12 inches high with a 4 ½ inch square base and a 2 ¼ inch square top that the platform sits on.

- Lay out an actual size pattern of a side. Make very sure the amount of taper on the edges of your pattern are equal. It would good to make 4 copies of the pattern.
- After the pattern has been drawn out, check to see that you have enough materials to do the job. Be sure to include an extra 12 inches or so for the internal struts that cross the inside of the tower. The platform is 1 ½ inches high and 4 ½ inches square. My High Tower used about 8 ½ feet of sticks and a small square piece of cardboard. Remember Lu 14:28,9.
- Assembly will depend on the format of your group.
 - It may be helpful to lay a piece of wax paper on top of the pattern to help the construction not stick to the pattern. Construct all four sides individually, then 'dry fit' them together to ensure your tower will be straight and strong.



Spiritual

While sticks and structure construction give more immediate indication of changes, the real meat of the High Tower project is the changes to be built upon that are character traits and attitudes that honor God. Even demonstrating that strong lasting physical construction also finds its roots in scriptural principles is a powerful message to learn and teach.

- **Our works** are to be a pattern to others; “Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.” Titus 2:6-8.
- **Jesus is our pattern**- In 1st Timothy 1:16 Paul says, “Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”
- **Lessons we learn** that comply with scripture are to become patterns with which we teach others (that will further teach others): “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2nd Timothy 2:2.
- **Our prayers** in some ways should reflect that of the “Lord's Prayer” that begins in Matt 6:9, “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven...”
- **Our teenage years** have a wonderful pattern for conduct in the life of Christ so stated in Luke 2:52: -And Jesus increased in wisdom (mental) and stature (physical), and in favour with God (spiritual) and man (man). -(Emphasis mine)

Be ready to discuss other patterns in scripture; but especially discuss patterns in conduct. i.e. the 10 commandments etc.

Signaling

A very important use of the High Towers, both then and now, is communicating. It is of little value to learn of dangers or news of any kind, and not be prepared and skilled in passing that on. While preparation to BUILD the tower is important for several reasons, there are also crucial preparations for OPERATION of the tower. Using non-flammable containers, a fire is created atop the tower and used to warm the watchman and also signal the watchman in the next tower much as we think of the American Indians did.

These are other reminders that makes the High Tower project so very important beyond the structural construction of the model tower:

- We are to use the tower project to signal others around us of God's plans for their eternal future and that of this earth's temporal future.
- Watching for 'trouble' signals from others we love and those that are lost is also a part of our signaling responsibilities. Discuss some of those warnings.
- Sending signals of our group's goals and events plus the Gospel to others is required.

Note: It's important that you teach your students realizing they are to reteach the lessons, in accordance with 2nd Tim 2:2.

-end of High Tower lesson-

Safety and Hygiene Guidelines

All of the WORTHshop projects are exciting ways to disciple the saved and unsaved, young and old in our Great Commission efforts. As with Nehemiah, we must be continually on guard that we don't give Satan an open door to derail our heartfelt God-honoring efforts. Here are just a few of the many considerations before and during student times:

- Provide opportunity for permissions, written and verbal for your students to be involved.
- Make sure student times are well defined in advance.
- Have adequate responsible leadership and helpers suitable to the student's age group.
- If any snacks are provided, consider their limitations according to each student.
- Construction materials, tools, and methods must be carefully established to prevent any accidents or injury.
- In only a few cases, some used materials may be used. Consider any hygiene/sanitation preliminaries that might be needed.
- For the very small students, tools, and sharp materials must be kept away from the face.
- There are certainly other considerations appropriate for this list you may think of.

- end of Safety and Hygiene Guidelines