



# HIGH TOWER

Patterns of  
Protection

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# **Construction Corner**

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## Introduction



Our well-used Bible often talks about towers, their purpose, and God being one's High Tower. Let's build a tower, and maybe a church. We'll learn scripture's construction directives, and how to disciple others in what we've learned from God's precious Word.

At the present time, 3 of our most popular Construction Corner projects are –

Sweet Tower (Preparation),  
High Tower (Patterns of Protection), and  
Bush Church (Partnering).

You may wish to rush past the Sweet Tower project, thinking it's a little too childish for me. The truth is, the real meat of the Sweet Tower makes it the perfect foundation to start with. Its power is seen as you share with those, younger than you, its principles. Then take that young person with you and gather a few residents of the nearby nursing home or assisted living center (with management's prior approval, of course). Make it a group construction project.

The point of these projects is their usefulness as teaching tools, in the hands of those you've taught, using them.



It's a rich expression of the 'pass-it-on' principle we learn in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:2 *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.* - end of Introduction -

# Construction Leadership Skills

The most famous of all of man's building projects is the tabernacle of Exodus 31. The five "contractor tools" God gave Bezaleel to train others in building the tabernacle were Wisdom, Knowledge, Manner of Workmanship, Understanding, and Aholiab the helper.

We'll save Wisdom for last because it's so crucial to the whole training process.

*"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship. To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;" Exodus 31:1-6.*

**Knowledge** is the data, the size, the color, the placement of all the parts of this tabernacle that is beyond the expertise of any human architect. Knowledge is no more productive than the garden seeds purchased but left in the package, or the engine bolts left in the box.

**Manner of Workmanship** gives the workers or the students the techniques, procedures, and how to use tools to progress the work in a safe efficient manner.

**Understanding** is the gift God gave to Bezaleel to best help the workers internalize what they were to do with the

materials and tools. Some workers can take verbal direction. Other workers may need recipes of commands or blueprints. “Understanding” teaches the instructor that youth learn differently than adults. It shows the teacher that women absorb different facts of the project than men do.

**Wisdom** is mentioned first as the gifts God gave to Bezaleel and therefore is almost sure to be the most important (according to the “Law of first mention”). Wisdom is the desire to feel the WHY of the training or project. It contains the passion; the fire within the teacher to train regardless of compensation. It carries the burden to prepare lesson plans, organize the teaching arena, and be burdened for good follow-up.

**Helper**, Aholiab was his name. For a host of reasons, every teacher needs a helper. Paul had helpers deliver his lessons(letters) to the churches. Pastor/teachers need helpers in the form of church staff and other teachers. Quite often, helpers are really On-the-Job trainees for becoming future teachers. Helpers can “guard the flock” against intrusion and disruption of the training.

(End)

# Construction Corner; High Tower - “Patterns of Protection”



The High Tower project is a favorite in the Construction Corner Builders Workshop. It really appeals to boys and men who yearn to create something that's big, high, flashy, or loud. Very early on, progress is seen, that becomes incentive to carry on. Hey! We can't leave out the ladies.

While the construction is enjoyed to the point of even inviting visitors to participate, the real construction is spiritual and forms critical life principals toward God and others. This project can include adults only, or youth with adult mentoring. It can take the form of a one-on-one discipling events or a complete workshop within itself. For space considerations we'll modestly cover the complete workshop and allow other methods to glean the principles from within.

While the Bible contains many references to towers and construction, both spiritual and physical, the principal here to be stressed throughout, is that of scriptural patterns of protection.

## HIGH TOWER WORKSHOP

Towers and construction techniques are covered so greatly in scripture, we'll ask God to train us toward His faithful service in four areas: SCRIPTURAL, STRUCTURE, SPIRITUAL, and SIGNALING.



**Scriptural**



**Structural**



**Spiritual**



**Signaling**



## Scriptural

- The Bible delivers on its promise in 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.”* 2<sup>nd</sup> 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- 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:7, our works are patterns to others- Titus 2:7.

## Structural

- **Safety** can never be stressed too often. Satan uses many ways to disrupt and destroy mentoring efforts in God's outreach to others – young and old. Be on your guard and teach others to do the same.
  - Have adequate adult supervision where students are younger. Some “instant weld” glues are very dangerous. I used a low temperature cheap hot melt glue gun. (about \$3.) **CAUTION!** The tip of the gun will easily burn fingers, and so will the glue as it comes out.
  - Additional safety tips are at the end of this guide.

- **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.
  
- **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.
  
- **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 on a piece of paper. Make very sure the amount of taper(slope) on the edges of your pattern are equal. It would be 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.”* 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 2:2.

-end of High Tower lesson-

continue on to Safety and Hygiene Guidelines addendum

## Construction Corner; Safety and Hygiene Guidelines



All of the Construction Corner 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 -

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