

# The World Needs Beautiful Things

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What is beautiful to you?

## Let My People Go

Bezalel certainly is in a bad situation: he and his people are slaves in ancient Egypt. The days are arduous; the treatment is harsh. But just as freedom is what you make of it, so is slavery: Bezalel finds beauty in the small things he discovers—shiny stones, blue and red strings, animal skins and wings. And then one day a big, beautiful thing happens: the Jewish people are set free! Bezalel is on his way to Israel, the promised land.

## God's Mobile Home

Imagine a place where humans and the divine connect and commune. That was the *mishkan* (Hebrew for “dwelling place”)—an exquisite portable tent that would serve as a place for God to meet with Moses, the leader of the people, and where the people could bring offerings and connect with God. In the Bible, Bezalel, an expert artisan, was chosen to direct the project, but all the Israelites made heartfelt contributions. Every member of the community was represented, and the result was a beautiful on-the-move work of sacred art. Learn more at [pjlibrary.org/beautifulthings](http://pjlibrary.org/beautifulthings).

## No One But You

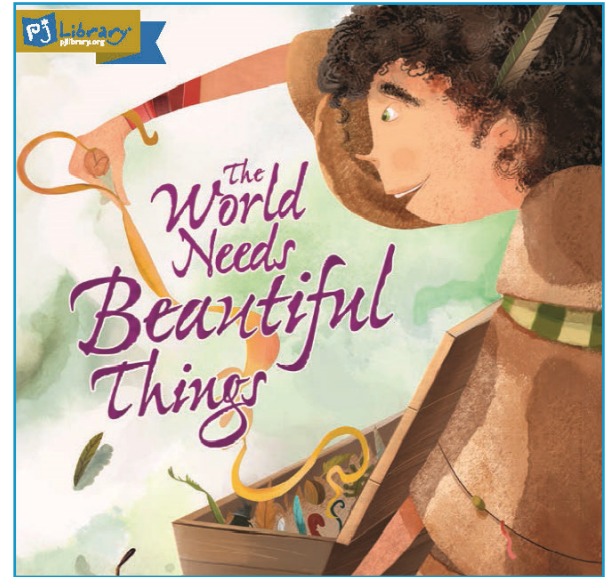
Bezalel probably never expected that he would be asked to do something as big and important as building the *mishkan*. But his abilities and sensibilities made him the perfect person for the job. Judaism teaches that each of us has a mission in life, a special task that only we can perform. Everyone is important; everyone is valued. Not all of us will be asked to design a house for God, or to lead a people, but each of us can use our unique talents and personalities to make a positive impact on the world.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**B**ezalel sees many beautiful things in this book. Can you find some of the small ones? How about big ones? Which do you like best?

**T**he Israelites make the *mishkan* welcoming to God. How do we make our homes welcoming?

**H**ave you ever worked with others on a big project? What was it like to work together?



## HANDS ON!

### Make a Beautiful Things Box



You might find you notice more beauty in the world when you start looking for it.

### Supplies

Shoebbox, plastic container, or other box

Art supplies (markers, stickers, glitter, paint, etc.)

Treasures (feathers, stones, string, beads...whatever you find beautiful)



Using your art supplies, decorate the box of your choice. Now keep your eyes open for treasures to put inside. You can keep the items in your box to look at, or make something from them when you have enough. You might create a collage to hang on your wall or a card to give to a special friend...and then you can begin collecting all over again.