

Jesus is not accepted in his hometown

# Build a Synagogue

## Body Smart - Active Room

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In Jesus' day, there was a synagogue in most towns in Galilee. A synagogue had some traditional elements. Build this basic model with a shoebox and Legos and other common supplies.

Materials:

- Shoebox
- Lego
- Black markers

# Directions

1. Cut off the lid of the box. Say: *a synagogue was a building in the town for the people to worship and learn about God. The synagogues in Jesus' region, Galilee, were usually made of stone and built on the highest spot in the town.*
  - a. Draw lines on the walls so the walls look like they are made of stone blocks.
2. Say: *inside the synagogue, benches lined three of the walls. These benches were made of stone and were there for the important members of the town to sit upon. Usually, there were several rows of benches, but for our synagogue model, we will just have one row.*
  - a. Build benches out of Legos and line them against the walls of the synagogue
3. Say: *The benches all faced the center of the synagogue so the people could hear the rabbis and the readers that stood there. There was a raised platform for the rabbis (the teachers) and the people who would read the Scripture to stand on. There was also a menorah (a stand with seven oil lamps on it) on the platform.*
  - a. Make a platform out of Legos and place it in the center of the synagogue.
4. Say: *There was one special seat called the Seat of Moses. During a synagogue service, the person who read from the Torah (the first five books of today's Bible) could sit in the seat since he was reading the words of Moses. (Moses was the writer of the Torah).*
  - a. Place a Lego brick near a wall to represent a chair
5. Say: *Outside the synagogue was a mikveh, a stone bath for the cleaning of people and objects before worship. The container of water will stand for our mikveh.*
  - a. Place the bottle cap next to the synagogue.
6. This was the normal order of the service: Singing of a psalm, reading of the Shema, prayers, reading from the Scriptures, sermon by a rabbi, closing blessing.
  - a. Read the Shema aloud: *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength*