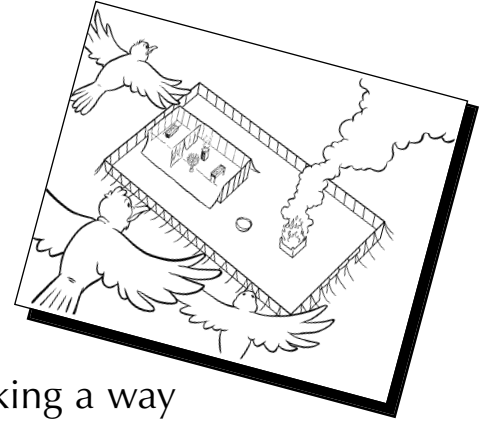




God Ordains the Tabernacle

Exodus 25–31



LESSON GOAL

Students will thank God for making a way to dwell with them.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- The tabernacle was a special place for an awesome God to dwell.
- The tabernacle shows that God is holy but merciful.
- The tabernacle shows that man is sinful.
- God promised to dwell with men.
- Faith in Christ allows God's Spirit to dwell in men and women.

KEY VERSE

“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8).

APPLICATION

- Recognize your sinful condition before God.
- Repent from your sin and turn to Christ.
- Praise God that faith in Jesus allows God to dwell in men.
- Pray to God in an honoring way.

NEXT WEEK

God Punishes Israel's Idolatry
Read Exodus 32.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

God’s announcing the Ten Commandments was preceded by the dramatic, visible descent of His presence upon Mount Sinai. Sinai was covered with smoke “because the Lord descended upon it in fire” (Ex. 19:18). The Israelites were terrified as they heard the trumpet blast and felt the ground shake (Ex. 19:16–20). When God spoke the Ten Commandments to the people, the people responded by begging God to no longer speak with them and instead sent Moses to mediate between themselves and God. When Moses returned from the mountain, the people promised, “All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient” (Ex. 24:7). God entered into a covenant relationship with the people of Israel; they would be His treasure among the nations, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation (Ex. 19:5–6). But God had more to reveal to the people about His relationship with them.

The Lord called Moses to go up the mountain once again (Ex. 24:12). For six days, Moses waited below a cloud that covered the mountain while God’s glory rested upon the mountain (24:15–16). The Israelites saw God’s glory like a consuming fire (24:17). On the seventh day, God called to Moses from the cloud. Moses went into the cloud and stayed there for 40 days and nights (24:18). The Lord spoke to Moses and revealed to him the plans for a sanctuary, a sacred place where God would dwell among the people (25:8).

Moses’ reaction is not recorded, but how amazing the very idea must have seemed. God was completely different than the people. The Israelites were not even allowed to go up the mountain because of God’s holiness. The people had seen God’s presence revealed in fire and smoke, thunder and earthquakes. They were rightly terrified of God. Not only was God unapproachable in His splendor and power, but also God’s righteous commands would soon be broken by the Israelites. How could God’s hatred of sin allow Him to dwell among a sinful people without destroying them? The tabernacle, as designed by God, was God’s revelation of how He would dwell among His people. The tabernacle was a continuous testimony to the holiness, justice, and grace of God.

The Outer Curtain

The tabernacle, the dwelling place of God, was located within a rectangular courtyard, approximately 150 feet long and 75 feet wide (Ex. 27:18). A linen curtain about 7½ feet high surrounded the courtyard, preventing anybody from seeing inside. On the east side of the courtyard, a 30-foot-long gate colored with blue, purple, and scarlet thread (Ex. 27:16) marked the entrance into the tabernacle courtyard. Not everyone could enter through the gate, though; only priests, often bearing the people’s sacrifice, could go inside the courtyard. The Israelites could see the top of the 15-foot-high tabernacle in the midst of the courtyard and the continuous rising of smoke from the sacrifices offered on the bronze altar. The curtain, which separated the people from the tabernacle, was a continuous

Additional Reference Materials

*Moses and the Gods of
Egypt: Studies in Exodus*
by John J. Davis

*The MacArthur Study
Bible* by John MacArthur

reminder of God's holiness. The smoke from the sacrifices reminded the Israelites that God dwelt among them only because of His willingness to forgive their sins as they obediently offered sacrifices.

The Priestly and High-Priestly Garments

Only the priests could enter the courtyard. While Moses was on top of the mountain, God established the priesthood of Aaron and his sons (Ex. 28:1). Aaron and his sons were to be consecrated and set apart (28:41) for maintaining the tabernacle and offering sacrifices. They were distinguished from the people both in their role as mediators for the people and in their dress. Aaron's sons wore linen tunics, sashes around the waist, and turbans "for glory and beauty" (28:40–41). Their priestly uniforms would distinguish them from all other Israelites.

As high priest, Aaron was further distinguished from his sons by other garments he wore over his tunic and sash. The first piece was an ephod made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread (Ex. 28:5–6). The ephod consisted of two pieces of cloth, one for the front and one for the back. The two pieces were joined at the shoulders by gold chains. On each chain was set an onyx stone in a gold facet. Each of the stones had engraved on it the names of six of the 12 tribes of Israel (28:10). The ephod was tightened around the waist with a belt of the same colored threads (28:8).

Attached to the ephod was the breastplate, also made of the multicolored thread and folded to form a pocket (Ex. 28:15–16). Braided gold cords attached the four corners of the breastplate to the shoulder and belt of the ephod so that the breastplate was centered near the heart of the high priest (28:22–28). Upon the breastplate were four rows of precious stones. Each row contained three stones (Ex. 28:17–20). On each of the stones was inscribed the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel (28:21). The breastplate, like the onyx stones on the shoulders, was a continuous reminder that the high priest was a mediator and intercessor for all the tribes of Israel. Inside the pocket of the breastplate were the Urim and Thummim (28:30). The material and shape of these objects are unknown. They were the means ordained by God through which the priest could ask and receive direction from God on behalf of the people. Thus the breastplate was called the "breastplate of judgment."

The high priest was further distinguished by a blue robe that he wore beneath the ephod. Golden bells were attached to the bottom of the ephod (Ex. 28:34). The tinkling bells reminded the other priests of God's mercy, which allowed the high priest to be before His presence. If the bells stopped ringing, the people could be sure that God had taken the life of the priest for some disobedience (28:43). The high priest also had a gold plate attached with a blue cord to his turban upon which was engraved "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" (Ex. 28:36–37). The plate reminded the high priest and all others of the seriousness of his duty, representing the people before God (28:38). The garments of the high priest emphasized his special role in representing the people before God. God would graciously dwell among His people, but there had to be a mediator between sinful man and holy God.

The Inner Courtyard

As the priest entered the gate, the first thing before him was the bronze altar. The altar was made of acacia wood and covered with bronze. A bronze grate was positioned halfway up the bronze altar for the sacrifice of animals and other burnt offerings. The altar was 7½ feet square and about four feet tall (Ex. 27:1–7).

Although more detailed instruction would be given later concerning sacrifices, two lambs were to be offered each day upon the altar, one in the morning and one

in the evening (Ex. 29:38–41). The offerings were to be accompanied by both a grain offering and a drink offering. God’s dwelling among the people required continual sacrifice (Ex. 29:42). God’s gracious fellowship with Israel could not continue without Israel’s continual repentance and confession of sins, as demonstrated in the offering of sacrifices. The sacrifices on the bronze altar were testament both to God’s forgiveness and grace and to His justice and hatred of sin.

Before offering a sacrifice at the altar or entering the tabernacle itself, the priests had to wash their hands and feet in the bronze basin placed between the altar and the tabernacle (Ex. 30:18–20). The cleansing was a continual reminder of the purity demanded by God. Ignoring the washing would result in death (30:21).

The Tabernacle

Beyond the altar and basin was the tabernacle itself (Ex. 26:1–6). The tabernacle was most likely rectangular, 45 feet long, 15 feet wide, and 15 feet high. Ten long curtains made of blue, purple, and scarlet thread and embroidered with cherubim were draped upon its wooden frame. The curtains were visible only from the inside since larger curtains made of weather-resistant goat hair were draped over them (26:7–13). Over the goat skins were laid ram and badger skins (26:14). The entrance of the tabernacle was covered with another colorful curtain (but without cherubim), hung on five posts, and stretched across the front of the tabernacle (26:35–37).

The Holy Place

The first room of the tabernacle was called the Holy Place. Its back wall was another curtain (made from the same colorful thread and embroidered with cherubim), which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. As the priest entered the Holy Place, on his left was a gold lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40). The lampstand had seven lamps, one coming from the center and the other six extending from three branches on either side. The lampstand was to be kept lit continually, being filled by the priests with oil both morning and evening (27:20–21). On the priest’s right was a table covered with gold; it was approximately 1½ feet wide, three feet long, and a little over two feet high (Ex. 25:23–30). Twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table. The bread was called the Bread of His Presence, or the showbread, and it demonstrated that Israel was continually before God’s presence, a picture of God’s fellowship with Israel. The priests ate and replaced the bread on the Sabbath (Lev. 24:8–9). The last piece of furniture in the Holy Place was the altar for burning incense, placed directly before the curtain leading into the Holy of Holies (Ex. 30:1–6). It was only three feet high and 1½ feet square. It also was covered with gold (30:2–3). The incense, which was burned every morning and evening (30:7–8), was designed by God (30:34–38).

The Holy of Holies

While other priests could enter the Holy Place to burn incense, replace the bread, or oil the lamps, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter and see the sole piece of furniture, the ark of the testimony (Ex. 25:10–16). The ark was a rectangular box made of wood and covered with gold, both inside and out. It was a little over two feet high, two feet wide, and almost four feet long. Inside the box were the tablets of stone given to Moses during the trip up Mount Sinai when he received these instructions (25:16).

The lid of the ark was made of solid gold (Ex. 25:17–22). Formed from the gold were two cherubim, one on each end of the lid. The cherubim were positioned

facing each other. Their wings were stretched out and covered the lid. The lid was called the mercy seat. Speaking of the mercy seat, God said, "There I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the testimony" (25:22). The mercy seat was God's throne from which He ruled the Israelites. The invisible, omnipresent God chose to allow His presence to rest in an amazing way above the ark of the testimony. The high priest entered the Holy of Holies only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16). The high priest sprinkled blood on the mercy seat in order to make atonement "because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins" (16:16). The high priest made atonement for "himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel" (16:17). God graciously ordained that He would continue to dwell among Israel and forgive their sins as they continued to offer sacrifices.

In the design of the tabernacle, God revealed much about His relationship with man. One of the most moving truths revealed in the tabernacle is that God desires to dwell with man. God loves mankind, even though they are sinful. God had made Israel His people. The privilege of being God's people included the awesome blessing of having God live with them. What a picture of restoration! God had not dwelt with man since the fall.

At the same time, the tabernacle was a picture of the dreadfulness of sin. God dwelt among His people, but only as the blood of animals was continually shed. God's love for man did not erase His justice. Forgiveness of sin required punishment. The sacrifices, including the sprinkling of blood on the Day of Atonement, looked forward to the finished work of Christ when Christ would forever enter into God's presence, having made atonement for man's sins by His death. The Israelites' relationship with God required the continual offering of sacrifices, through which they confessed their sin and their unworthiness to have God dwell among them. Every day, as the smoke rose into the air, the Israelites would be reminded that breaking God's law was punishable only by death.

God's holiness was also emphasized by the tabernacle. God protected man from His holy presence through a series of curtains. All Israel was protected by the courtyard curtain. The priests were protected by the inner veil. Only the high priest could enter God's holy presence in the Holy of Holies once a year, and that only by the blood of bulls. The cherubim on the ark and curtains were a reminder of God's holiness in heaven.

The priests also revealed to Israel that their relationship with God needed to be mediated. The priests were God's gracious protection of sinful man from His holy presence. If the priests would be killed by God for disobedience, how much more the unconsecrated people?

The priests were transitory, though. When one high priest died, another took his place. Christ became the great high priest, the perfect mediator. Because He had no sin, He did not have to atone for His sin but could die for all men, not only Israel but also the Gentiles. He is the high priest who has entered heaven (Heb. 9:24–28). But He is not only the high priest; He is also the sacrifice, the lamb slain since the foundation of the world. His blood has been sprinkled, forever allowing God to dwell with man. God's throne in heaven is forever the mercy seat upon which Christ's blood has made atonement for all saints!

The tabernacle with God dwelling among Israel should have been strong motivation for Israel to obey. Yet, although blood was continually being shed at the altar, Israel often ignored the cost of sin and the blessing of God's presence. As saints indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we must make every effort to match our lives with the character of the God who dwells within. We must not ignore the blood

shed by Christ. The tabernacle was a picture, a copy of the true heaven (Heb. 9:24). Israel was continually punished for denying God's presence by their actions, their idolatry, and ultimately their lack of love. They mocked His holiness, though He had given such a powerful visible manifestation. As saints indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we must be vigilant to honor the blood of Christ and the holiness of God with our obedience.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Who was Moses?

Moses was the leader of the people of Israel.

Did Moses love God?

Yes.

What did Moses do?

He went up on the mountain to talk to God about the people of Israel.

How did God share His rules, the Ten Commandments, with the people?

He told them to Moses, who took them back to the people.

What are some of these rules?

Worship only God, take a rest one day each week to think about God, obey your parents, never steal, tell the truth about one another, and do not be jealous.

Should we obey the Ten Commandments?

Yes.

Why should we obey the Ten Commandments?

We must obey God. That is one way we can please Him and show that we love Him.



By Design

Select a variety of clean, empty containers (perhaps from yogurt or oatmeal) to bring to class. Draw a blueprint of a simple project that can be built with the containers. Help the students build the project according to the blueprint. Tell them that God had a master plan that gave specific directions for building the tabernacle. For older students, instead of making a blueprint, write out various directions on single pieces of paper. Be specific. For example, "Place the yogurt containers two inches apart, then..." At the beginning of class, have the students



select a piece of paper and build the project according to the directions. Be sure to have enough containers to build all the projects.

Simon Says

This game can be used to demonstrate how God wanted Israel to follow (obey) His directions exactly. Compare not following Simon's directions to sin.



Dress-Up

Have dress-up garments that the students can play with. During the teaching time, dress up a couple of the boys like Aaron's sons and one like Aaron, the high priest. Talk about how different they look from everyone else and indicate that God wanted Aaron and his sons to be different. For Aaron's sons: large man's T-shirt for tunic; colorful scarves for sashes and turbans. To make Aaron's clothes: ephod—two pieces of colorful (blue, purple, and scarlet) cloth for front and back, joined at the shoulders by gold chains (wide gold ribbon with six black stones glued on as onyx), sash of same material. Add breastplate of same material with gold cord at each corner (to attach to shoulder and belt/sash. On the breastplate, glue four rows of three precious stones.



Built with Care

Materials: pictures of various types of houses from different cultures (an igloo, a mud hut, a house, etc.) and of the tabernacle

Directions: Discuss how each of the buildings is built and what materials are used. Ask the students what type of houses they live in. Once you arrive at the picture of the tabernacle, talk about the materials and procedures by which God commanded the tabernacle to be built.



Set up a Tabernacle

When the students come into the classroom, tell them that today they will pretend that the classroom is a tabernacle. The tabernacle was the place where God met with the Israelites during the time of the book of Exodus. Familiarize the students with the words *tabernacle*, *Holy of Holies*, *ark*, *altar for sacrifice*, *altar for incense*, and *lampstand*. Drape sheets (curtains) over coat racks or a table to make the Holy of Holies. No one but Aaron the priest could go into the Holy of Holies. Speak reverently of the Holy of Holies. Make an ark (a gold-painted box), put the two tablets in it, and place it reverently in the Holy of Holies. Outside the Holy Place, designate a table for the gold bowls, dishes, and 12 rolls (loaves of bread). You may cover plates with gold foil or simply ask the students to pretend that the dishes are gold. Place incense on another table and light a candelabra. Of course, this must be carefully supervised. It can be referred to during the Bible lesson.



Mountain Picture

Cut a mountain shape out of construction paper, or have numerous pictures of mountains available (the larger the better). In the center of the table, provide cotton balls and a plate of glue. Have the students dip the balls in the glue and put them on the top of the mountain to represent the cloud that hid God from the people. In today's Bible lesson, Moses goes back up the mountain into the cloud to talk to God.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read portions of Exodus 25–31.

Note to teachers: There is a great deal of detail in the tabernacle. You may need to be selective about which items to explain. We have included a fuller description for churches that have two Sunday School hours.

Moses went to meet with God on the mountain. When he came back down, the people promised to obey God, and God promised to make Israel His special people. God told Moses to build a tabernacle—a house where God would live among the people. But this was a very special house because it was for the Holy God. Only certain people, called priests, could enter, and they had to be men from the family of Aaron, the brother of Moses.

God said the tabernacle should be in a courtyard surrounded by a linen curtain. God is holy, and the curtain reminded the people that they could not go directly to God. On the east side of the courtyard was a gate with blue, purple, and scarlet thread. Only priests could enter.

The people could see the top of the tabernacle and smoke from the sacrifices of animals killed and burned on the bronze altar. It made people remember that God lived among them only because He was willing to forgive their sins as they obediently offered sacrifices. When an Israelite sinned, he had to offer a sacrifice to God to show that he was truly repentant. A lamb would be killed and burned on the altar. The animal took the punishment meant for the person who sinned, so God would not get angry.

The priests wore different clothes than the people did. They wore linen tunics, sashes on their waists, and turbans. Aaron was the high priest, or the leader of the priests, so he wore something extra special. In addition to the sash and tunic, he also wore an ephod made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet. The front and back were connected by gold chains at the shoulder. On each of the chains were onyx stones, and on each stone were the names of six of the 12 tribes of Israel.

On the ephod was a breastplate with a pocket. Inside the pocket was the Urim and Thummim. These were stones that the priest used to ask God what he should do. They are thought to be something like the dice we use today. On the breastplate were four rows of precious stones. Each row had three stones. On each of the stones was written the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The breastplate and the onyx stones reminded the people that the high priest was the person between God and the Israelites.

The high priest also wore a blue robe called an ephod. Gold bells were attached to the bottom of the ephod. When the high priest walked, the people outside could

hear the tinkle of bells. It reminded the other priests of God's mercy because He let the high priest come before Him. If the bells stopped ringing, it meant that God had taken the life of the priest because he had disobeyed.

The high priest also had a gold plate attached to his turban. It had the words "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" written on it. The plate reminded the priests that what they were doing was serious; they represented the people. The Israelites could not go directly to God; they needed the priests to be mediators for them.

Inside the courtyard was a bronze altar made of acacia wood and covered with bronze; on the altar, animals would be sacrificed and burned. Priests had to wash their hands and feet in the bronze basin between the altar and the tabernacle to remind them that God wanted purity; otherwise, they would be killed. Inside the tabernacle was the Holy Place. Inside the Holy Place was a gold lampstand that had seven lamps. The lampstand always had to be lit. There was also a gold table with 12 loaves of bread called showbread. They were a picture of God's fellowship with Israel. There was also an altar for burning incense. This altar was covered with gold.

After the Holy Place was the Holy of Holies. Only the high priest could go into this room once a year after making a special sacrifice. Only one thing was in the room—the ark of the testimony. The ark was a rectangular box made of wood and covered with gold both inside and out. It was about two feet high, two feet wide, and almost four feet long. Inside the ark were the stone tablets given to Moses when God wrote the Ten Commandments.

The lid of the ark was made of solid gold. A gold cherub, a kind of angel, was on each end of the lid. The lid was called the mercy seat. It was God's throne. God said, "There I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony" (Ex. 25:22). God's presence would rest in an amazing way above the ark. The high priest sprinkled blood on the mercy seat to ask God to forgive the sins of the Israelites.

When God designed the tabernacle, He showed us His relationship with people. Even though men are sinners, God loves them. God made Israel His people. But God's tabernacle also shows men how bad sin is. That is why they had to sacrifice all those animals to God. The tabernacle also showed that God was holy. God protected man from His holy presence with curtains. Priests were needed to go between God and man.

After Jesus died for us on the cross and rose again, He became the great High Priest who went to God for us. He could die for us because He had no sin. So God accepted Him. Jesus became the lamb that was killed and sacrificed because we were sinners. We do not need to make sacrifices anymore because Jesus was the one and only sacrifice for our sins, if we trust in Him as our Savior.



Lesson Questions

What do we call God's house where He lived among the Israelites?
The tabernacle.

Who was allowed to go into the tabernacle?
Only the priests, Aaron and his sons.

What was the leader of the priests called?
The high priest.

Why did the priests make sacrifices?
Because the people were sinful.

Why don't we need to make sacrifices today?
Because Jesus was the perfect and complete sacrifice for sin.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Blueprints

Bring in blueprints of various common structures such as a house, an office building, and a car. Have the students guess what each blueprint is for. Invite an architect or contractor to talk to the students about how to read and follow a blueprint and what happens when the plan is not followed.



God the Architect

Materials: a variety of tools or a tool belt, a hard hat

Directions: While wearing the tool belt, hard hat, etc., tell the students that today they are going to enter a construction zone. Ask the students whether they ever have built anything. Explain that it takes a lot of work and planning to build something properly and that in today's lesson, they will learn about God's plan for His tabernacle.

Praise and Worship

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Holy, Holy

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children



The Tabernacle

Today we'll learn the Lord's commands,
(Write on palm with finger.)

For the tabernacle plans.
(Hit fists one on top of the other.)

God told the people what to do:
(Point up.)

"Use gold and bronze and silver too."
(Touch three fingers, one at time.)

"Use scarlet, blue, and purple thread,"
(Pretend to sew with a needle.)

“Use precious gems, just as I’ve said.”
(Pretend to hold a small object between thumb and index finger, nod head.)

“Use goat and ram and badger hide;”
(Slide one hand back and forth on the opposite palm.)

“Use spices sweet and oil for light.”
(Rub fingers together and hold to nose, pretend to pour oil into hand.)

“I’ll give the workers wisdom and skill,”
(Point to temple, then pretend to hammer.)

“To understand and do My will.”
(Hand over heart, nod head.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



4
5

Wrapping the Commandments

This “present” gives a tangible demonstration of the “layers” of the tabernacle. Discuss sin, our separation from God, and other truths that the tabernacle reveals. Then start with a copy of the Ten Commandments on paper or cardstock. Have the students wrap the copy of the commandments in brown tissue-paper (to represent wood) and then in gold or yellow tissue-paper (to represent the gold-covered ark). Stamp or place cutouts of two angels (cherubim) on the gold paper. Next, wrap the package in colorful paper (blue, purple, and scarlet to represent the tabernacle curtain). Then wrap it in brown paper (to represent the goat hair and ram and badger skins). Stamp on or adhere cutouts of a bronze basin (to represent water) and an altar. Tie the package with gold cord (to represent the gate to the inner courtyard). Finally, wrap the package with white tissue-paper (to represent the linen curtain).



Lacing a Basket

Cut a paper plate in half. Place the bottom halves together, with the right side of plates facing each other and secure them with a paper clip. Punch holes around the edge. Give each student a 30-inch length of yarn to lace around the bottom of the plates. Cut the center top half from another plate. The rim of this plate will serve as the handle. Give each student a gold-foil-wrapped stone, a piece of fabric, a chunk of wood, and a small stone to represent the materials used in making the tabernacle. The students can tell their families about the Bible lesson as they take the things out of their baskets.



Curtains for Kids

Materials: two yards of linen for each table; red, blue, and purple markers



Directions: Explain to the class that they will be decorating curtains, as the Israelites did for the tabernacle, with scarlet, blue, and purple markers instead of thread. Spread each piece of fabric on the tabletop, and let the students draw decorative designs all over. Before the students leave the classroom, tape the “curtain” over the doorframe so that the students have to walk through to leave.

Helpers Relay

Divide the class into three groups: woodworkers, sewers, and stonecutters. Have each group form a line on one end of the room. When the teacher says “go,” the first student in each line must hop across the room and complete a specific task. Woodworkers “saw” a couple of times. Sewers thread a string of yarn through a hole. Stonecutters hit a stone with a hammer. When the task is done, the student runs back to the end of the line, and the next student in line takes a turn. The team to finish first wins.



5

Making Moses Memories

Choose a coloring page and reduce it to 4 x 6 inches. Have each student color the page, cut it out, and glue it to the next page in his scrapbook. At the end of the Exodus series, students may take home their completed scrapbooks.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or at home.



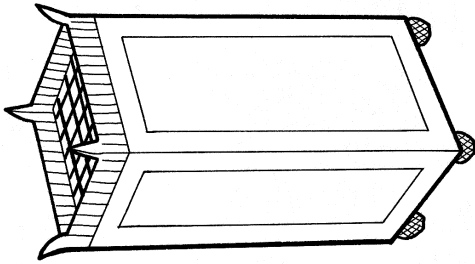
MEMORY VERSE

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).

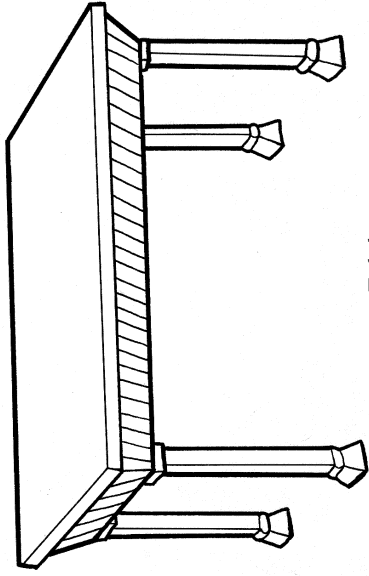


Ninth Commandment

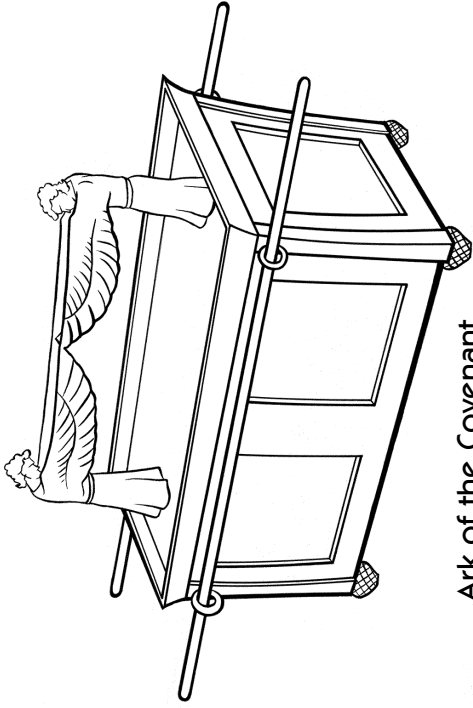
If you have decided to assemble the Ten Commandments as you go through them, post the ninth commandment. The Bible tells us that God hates lying (Prov. 6:16–17). God hates it because speaking lies is the exact opposite of who He is; God is the truth. The Bible tells us that Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). But what exactly is a lie? A lie is any misrepresentation of the truth, even if the words are accurate. In other words, I can lie in my heart even if the words that come out of my mouth appear to be correct. This week, ask God to help you to tell the truth and to hate lying. Ask your parents to hold you accountable in this area.



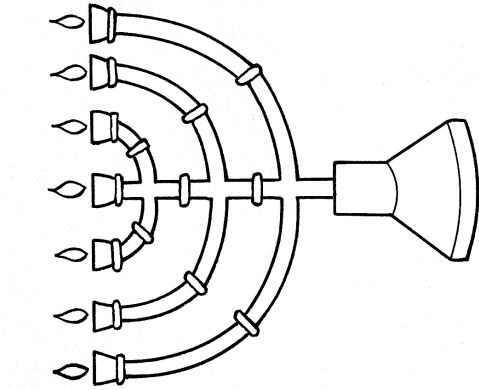
Bronze Altar



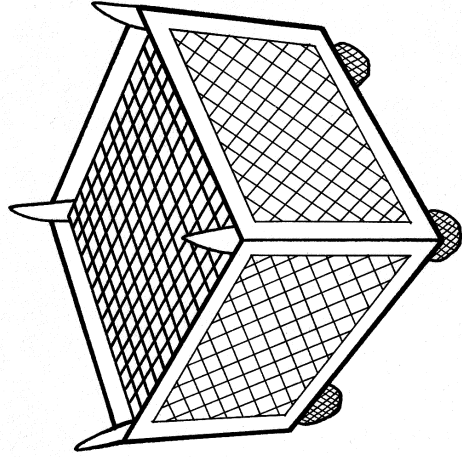
Table



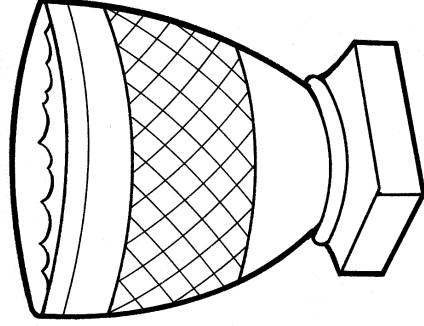
Ark of the Covenant



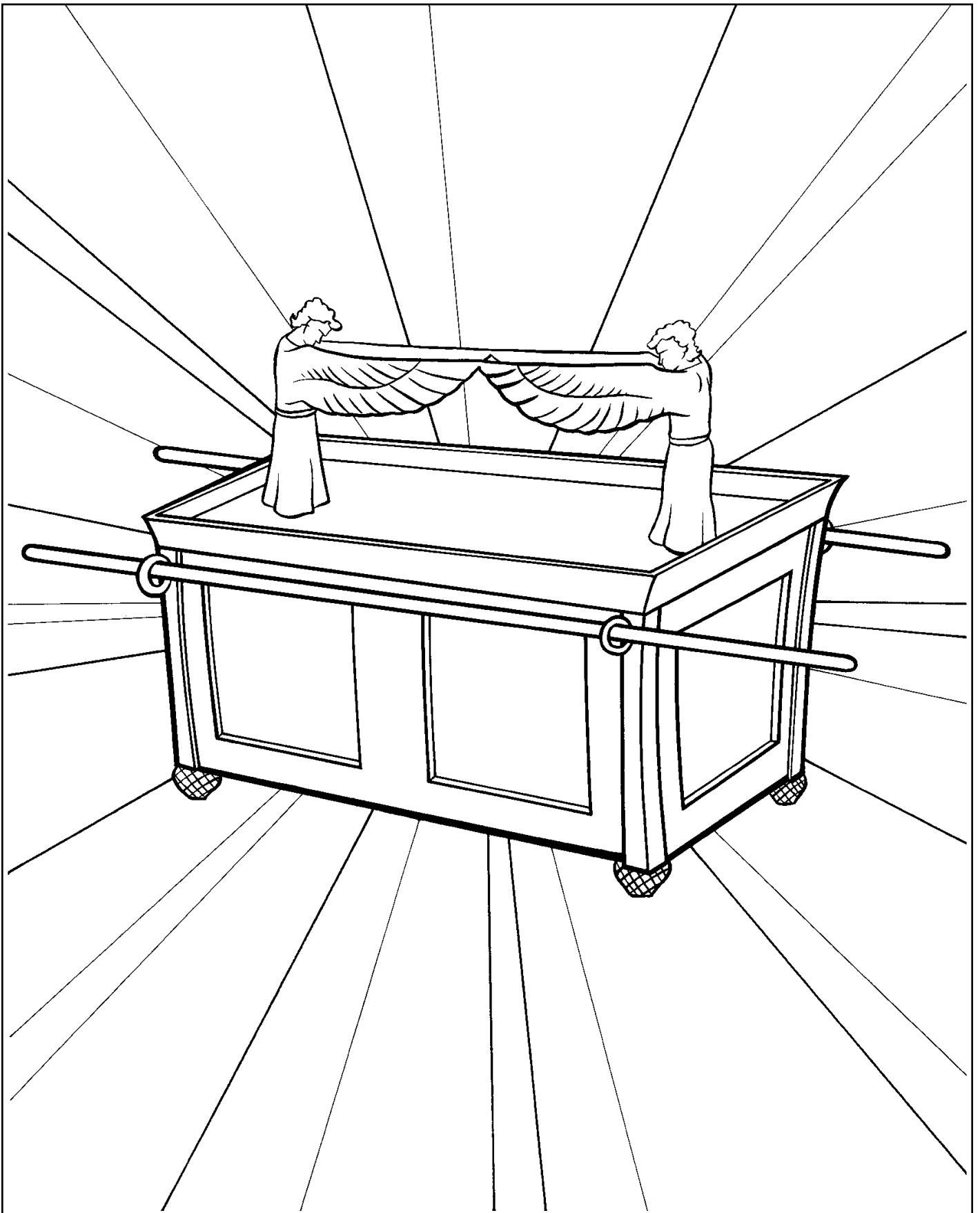
Lampstand



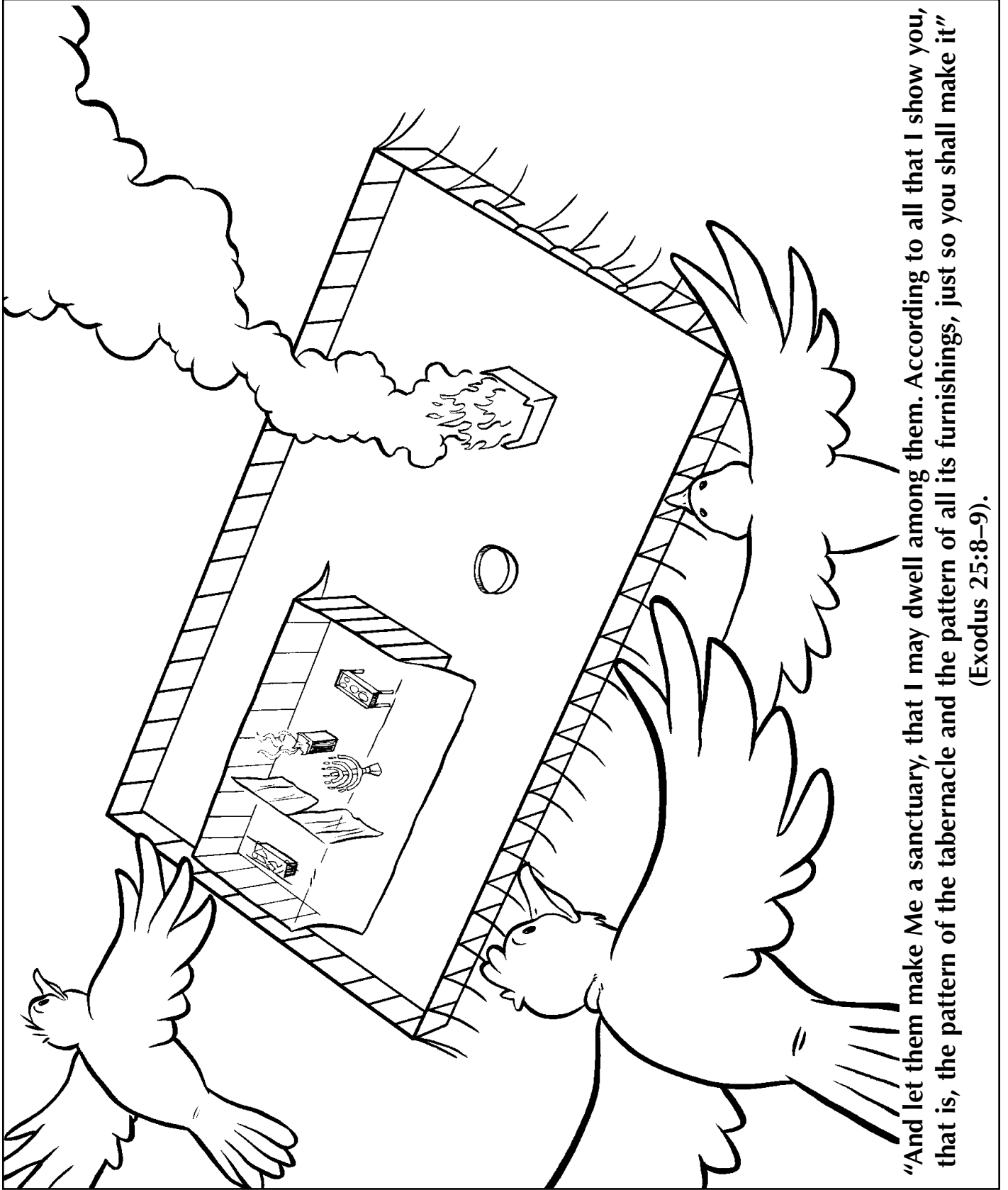
Altar



Basin



**“And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony”
(Exodus 25:22).**



**“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it”
(Exodus 25:8-9).**

