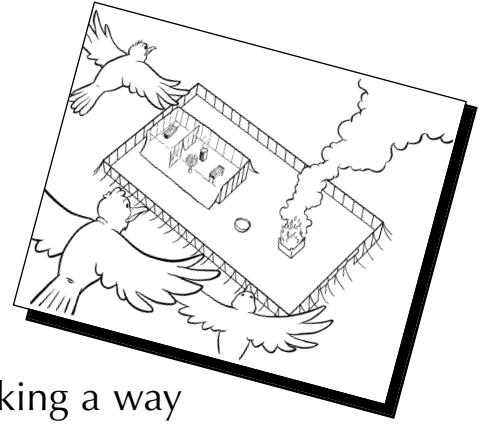




God Ordains the Tabernacle

Exodus 25–31



LESSON GOAL

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

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- List in order (from outside in) the seven articles of tabernacle furniture.
- Explain how God's holiness is seen in the tabernacle.
- Explain the significance of the mercy seat and how it points to Jesus Christ.
- Describe the significance of the tabernacle.

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



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

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.

Where did the Ten Commandments come from?

"God spoke all these words" (Ex. 20:1). He is the source of the commandments.

Why did God give the Ten Commandments?

To show His holiness and man's sinfulness and to show what was required to have fellowship with God.

We are told to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. How do we do that?

By living according to God's Word and being an example to those around us.



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.



Operator

Play this game to demonstrate the role Moses played as mediator and messenger between God and the Israelites. For a relay for large groups of older students, divide the group into at least two teams of 10–20 students; pair them up. One student from the first pair comes to a teacher, who gives him a message. This message could be the first commandment. The student must relay that message to his teammate, who writes it down. When they are finished, the next pair goes through the same thing. The teacher can talk about Moses' role and the Israelites' job to get it right and obey. For smaller groups, do fewer messages and no team races.



A Dwelling Place for God

Bring in pictures, perhaps from encyclopedias or magazines, to show different types of dwellings. Discuss what each one is made of, where you might find one, and who might live there. Spend some time talking with the students about the places where they dwell (their houses). Once you have laid the groundwork, talk about what they think God's dwelling might look like. If they could design a dwelling for God, what materials would they use, what would it look like (size, color, shape), how long would it take to build, and who would be allowed inside? Record these ideas and share them at the end of class.



Our Family Dwelling

Bring in a floor plan of your house. Discuss how the rooms are laid out and what kinds of activities you do in each room. Give each student a piece of blank paper on which to draw a floor plan of his own house. Allow students to share with the group about their family dwelling and special activities that may occur in different rooms in their homes. At the end of this activity, show a picture of the tabernacle. Explain to the students what types of things were done in the different parts of the tabernacle.



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.

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 to use during worship time. 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 25–27.



Introduction

Today we will learn about the tabernacle, the place where God came to live. A tabernacle is another name for a tent. The tabernacle is the tent where God came to live and where the Hebrews came to worship the one true God. Have you ever had someone special stay at your house—maybe your grandparents or friends of your family? To get ready for them, your mother probably was very busy cleaning the house and preparing the room where they would be staying. In our lesson today, God is coming to live with the Hebrews, and He showed Moses exactly how it must be in order for Him to come. God showed Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle and what materials to build it from.

Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What is a tabernacle?

Answer: It is a tent.

LOQ: As an Israelite entered the tabernacle, what was the first piece of furniture he came to?

Answer: The bronze altar. This altar was for burnt offerings. The Israelites would bring an innocent animal here and kill it as a sacrifice.

LOQ: Why was a sacrifice needed?

Answer: Because of the person's sin. In other words, an innocent animal would die for a guilty person. The animal did not sin. The person sinned, but it was the animal that died. To approach God, there had to be a sacrifice for sin. Someone had to die at the bronze altar. If the people did not bring a sacrifice, they could not continue to worship God.

LOQ: What was the second piece of furniture found in the tabernacle?

Answer: The bronze laver was a bowl filled with water so that the priests could wash before they went into the Holy Place. If they did not obey this command, they would die (Ex. 30:20). These two pieces of furniture were in the courtyard, which was outside the Holy Place.

LOQ: As they came through the screen and entered the Holy Place, what was the third piece of furniture?

Answer: The golden lampstand.

LOQ: What does a lamp give?

Answer: It gives light. Inside the Holy Place, it would have been very dark. The golden lampstand would have provided light so that the priest could see. Where God dwells, there is light. This also reminds us about Jesus Christ, who said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world."

LOQ: What was the fourth piece of furniture in the tabernacle?

Answer: The table of showbread. There was to be bread on this table at all times. This represented God's presence. The bread supplied the needs of the priests on the Sabbath as they were ministering. This speaks of God providing for the needs of the people. This also speaks of Jesus Christ because in John 6:32–35, He called Himself "the bread of life."

LOQ: Just before the veil, there was the fifth piece of furniture. What is it?

Answer: The altar of incense.

LOQ: What is incense?

Answer: It is spices from certain plants that are ground up and beaten into a fine dust. It smells like a perfume. The incense was to be burned on this altar, and it made the Holy Place smell good. It was to be burned continually, never to be put out except when the Israelites were moving to another place. Burning incense often symbolizes prayer and communion with God. As the smoke rose up, it was like a picture of prayers going up to God. *[Teacher note: Look at Psalm 141:2; Luke 1:10; and Revelation 5:8 and 8:3–4. Incense is symbolic of the prayers of the saints. Also, continual burning is an example of continuous and persistent prayers (Psalm 16:8; 1 Thess. 5:17–18).]*

LOQ: What separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies?

Answer: The veil. This was like a curtain. It was blue, purple, and scarlet and was made out of cloth. On one side of the veil was the Holy Place; on the other side was the Holy of Holies. Only one time a year did the high priest go behind the veil into the Holy of Holies, and that was on a very special day, the Day of Atonement.

LOQ: The last piece of furniture was behind the veil. It was the only piece of furniture behind the veil. What was it?

Answer: The ark of the covenant. *[Have a visual aid, such as a replica or a picture, to help students see what the ark looked like.]* The ark was a wooden box covered with gold, inside and out. Inside the ark were the Ten Commandments, the holy law of God. The cover of the ark was called the mercy seat, and on either end, there were the creatures called cherubim. This was the dwelling place of God. “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, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel” (Ex. 25:22).

LOQ: On top of the ark, what object is between the Ten Commandments (inside) and the place where God would meet with Moses (above the ark)?

Answer: The mercy seat.

LOQ: What is mercy?

Answer: Mercy is not giving what one deserves. It is sparing a guilty person the punishment he deserves for his wrongdoing.

LOQ: If a criminal deserved death, what could a judge do to show that person mercy?

Answer: Not have him killed.

LOQ: If you disobeyed your father and you deserved to be punished, what would he do to show you mercy?

Answer: Not punish you. The mercy seat is where the people of Israel found mercy. One day a year, the high priest would take blood from a sacrifice and go behind the veil and enter the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat. This was to cover the sin of all the people for the whole year. If a person broke one of the commandments of God, under the law that person deserved to die. “For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). God did not kill the people of Israel but instead showed them mercy. He gave them a way out. By sacrificing an innocent animal

in their place and having the blood sprinkled upon the mercy seat, God overlooked their sin one more year. This blood upon the mercy seat symbolized the cleansing of sin for the nation of Israel. The mercy seat is also a picture of Jesus Christ. Just as God had mercy on Israel when they sprinkled the blood of lambs on the mercy seat, so God has mercy on all those who come to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin.

LOQ: Who is the Lamb of God?

Answer: Jesus Christ.

LOQ: When an Israelite sacrificed a lamb, he had to kill it. Did the lamb have any sin of its own?

Answer: No. It was an innocent sacrifice. It was a substitute. It died in the place of the sinner.

LOQ: Did Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God, have any sin of His own?

Answer: No, He was innocent. He was perfect and sinless.

LOQ: Then why did He die?

Answer: God the Father sent Him to be a substitute for sinners.

LOQ: Are you a sinner? What must you do to be saved?

Answer: Repent of sin and trust in Christ.

Summary

The tabernacle had seven pieces of furniture in it, and each one had a significant purpose because God is the one who planned it all. The most important piece of furniture in the tabernacle was the ark of the covenant because that is where God dwelt among His people. It also pointed toward Jesus Christ, for it is in Him that we find the mercy of God. Children, if you want your sins to be forgiven, then you must come to Jesus Christ, asking Him to forgive you. He is the only one who can forgive you.

Application

Children, because you have broken the law of God, you are in desperate need of God's mercy. Jesus Christ took the punishment that sinners deserve upon Himself. Therefore, the only way to come to God is through Jesus Christ. Do you remember the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies? Listen to Matthew 27:50–51. The veil was torn from top to bottom. It was no longer a separation. The way to God is through Jesus Christ, not through animal sacrifices offered over and over and over. If you do not come through Jesus Christ, you cannot come to God. You will not be accepted by Him.

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: a house, an office building, and a car. Have the students guess what the blueprints are for. Talk to the students about how to read and follow a blueprint and what happens when the plan is not followed.

Praise and Worship

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

There Is a Redeemer

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.



Tabernacle Review Questions

1. How would you feel if you were the high priest who had to enter the Holy of Holies to offer the sacrifice before the Lord? (Note: When the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, the only day of the year in which he would enter that place, he would tie a rope around him in case he died in the presence of the Lord. The priest’s clothing also had little bells tied to it so that the people could hear him moving around.)
2. What elements of the tabernacle do you see in the death of Jesus Christ?
3. Read Hebrews 9:11–15. What do these verses tell us about the difference between Jesus’ death on the cross and the sacrifices made in the tabernacle? Can you note all the differences? Discuss all the differences.



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).



Washing Those Sins Away

In a humorous way, present a detergent commercial advertisement. Start with two buckets containing water and detergent (real or pretend). Take a dirty cloth and talk about it as if it represents the sinful nature of man. In order to be righteous before God, we must be without sin. As you attempt to clean the garment, dip it in and out of the first bucket, struggle, scrub, and add more soap. Give examples of how we might try to clean up our lives (e.g., trying to be good, comparing our sins to others that seem worse, or trying to ignore them). Now take the same dirty cloth, which obviously has not become clean in the first bucket, and dip it into the "Jesus" bucket. Only Christ can truly wash away our sins, cleansing us of all unrighteousness in the eyes of the Father. He can do this because He became the required sacrifice for the atonement of sin. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves presentable before God. Christ did it for us. All we have to do is follow Him and trust our lives to His control. Now, bring out a sparkling clean white cloth (placed into the bucket before class) as a representation of a person whose sin has been washed away.



Scripture Reading and Discussion

Divide the class into small groups and have the students take turns looking up the following verses and reading them to their classmates. Leave time for questions and discussion. End your time in prayer, thanking God for His forgiveness of sins through Christ.



Making Plans

Materials: large sheets of butcher paper, colored pencils, photocopies of the tabernacle outline at the back of this lesson, rubber bands

Directions: Ask the students to draw an enlarged copy of God's blueprint for His tabernacle on their newsprint sheets. Before they leave class, be sure to have the students roll and rubber band their blueprints to take home.



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.



"God Ordains the Tabernacle"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of this week's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: "God's Master Plan"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can work on the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

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

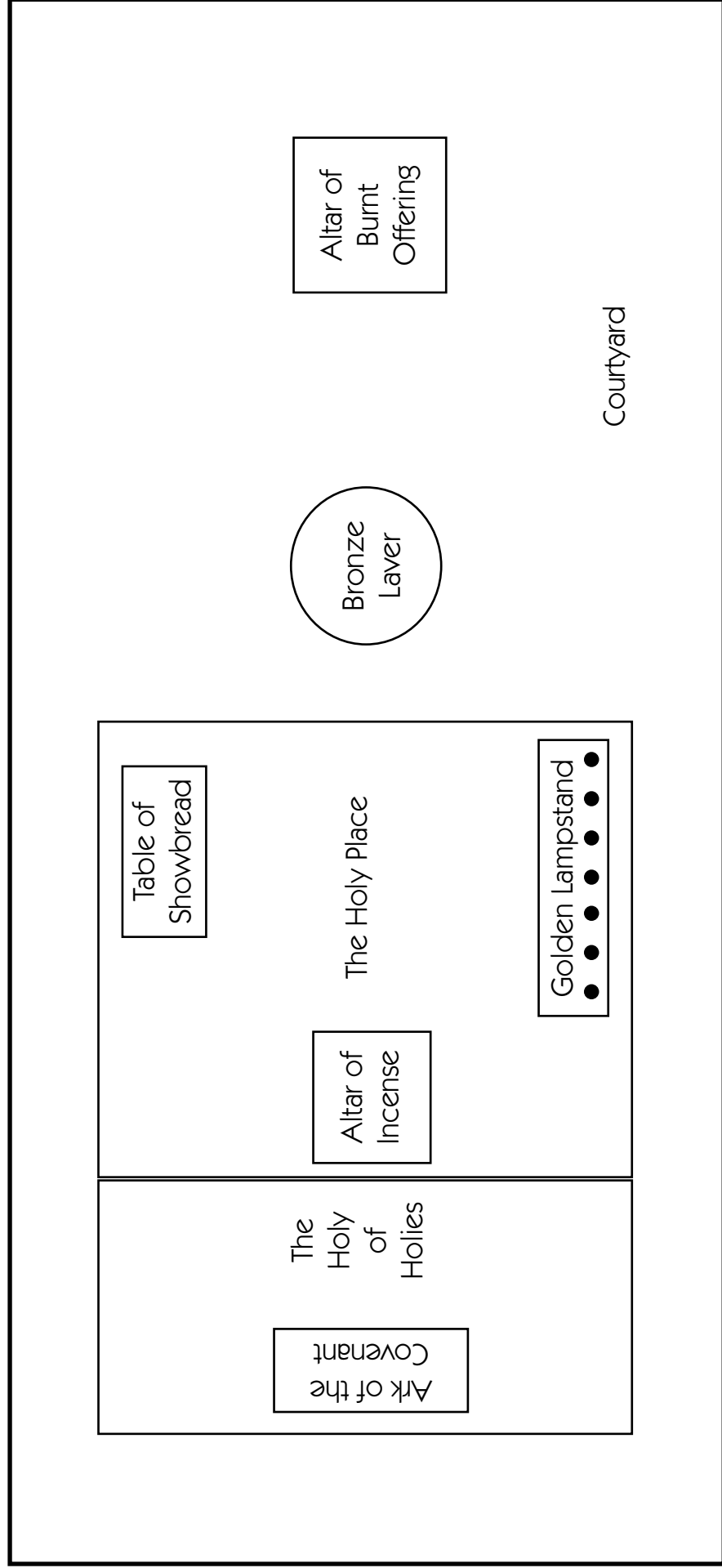
"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).



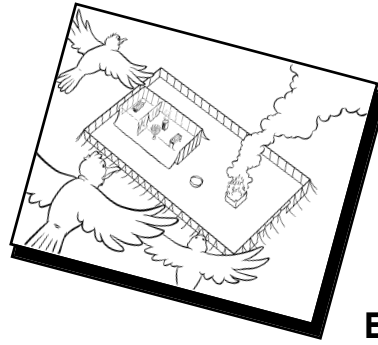
Ninth Commandment

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.

Tabernacle Floor Plan



God *Ordains* the Tabernacle



Exodus 25–31

Name _____

1. What is a tabernacle? _____

2. How many articles of furniture were in the tabernacle? _____

10

9

8

7

3. Below is a list of articles from the tabernacle. Choose from the following items, and place them in order: table of showbread, bronze altar, veil, golden lampstand.

1. _____

2. bronze laver

3. _____

4. _____

5. altar

6. _____

7. ark of the covenant

4. What separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies? _____

5. What separates us from God? _____

God's Master Plan

Have you ever seen a blueprint? A blueprint is a master plan for a building project. It shows how the job is to be completed. God gave His master plan for the tabernacle to Moses. Would you like to see His master plan for the tabernacle? You can read about it in Exodus 26. God gave Moses very specific details not only for the building of the tabernacle but also for the items that were to go in it, such as the lampstand. In the space below, with the help of your parents, see if you can draw the lampstand by its description in God's master plan (Ex. 25:31–40).



Tabernacle Lampstand

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Tabernacle Lampstand

Just as God had a master plan for the tabernacle, He has a master plan for you. He wants to be your Savior. He wants you to be the light of the world. When Christ has forgiven your sins, you can shine as brightly as the tabernacle lampstand. For directions on how to let your light shine, read Matthew 5:14–16.

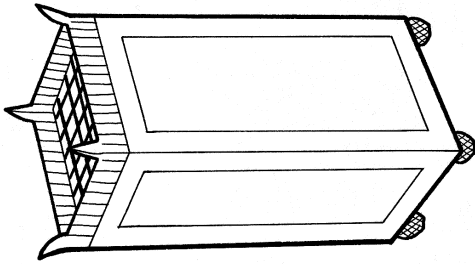
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What does Christ mean when He says, “You are the light of the world”?

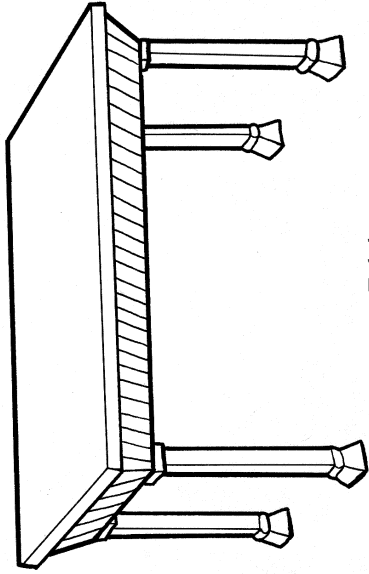
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How can a person shine as a light in the world?

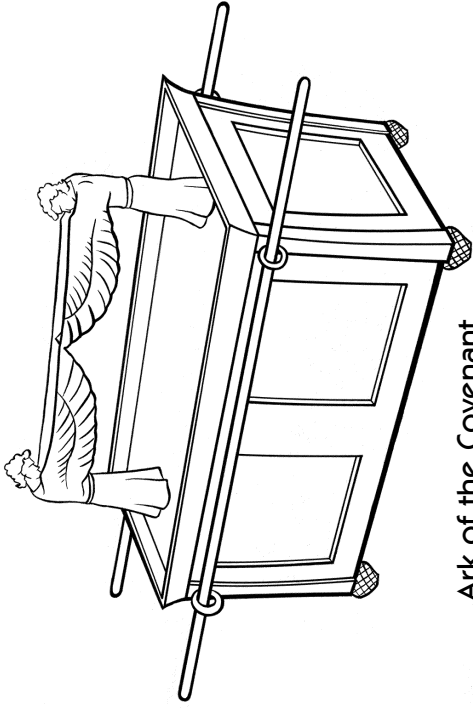
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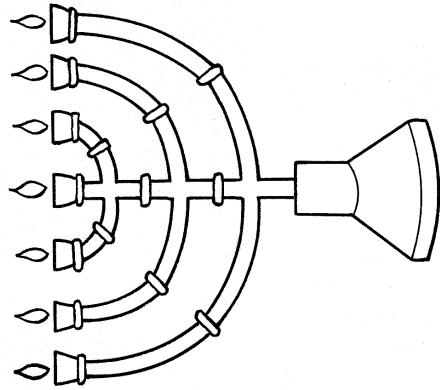
Bronze Altar



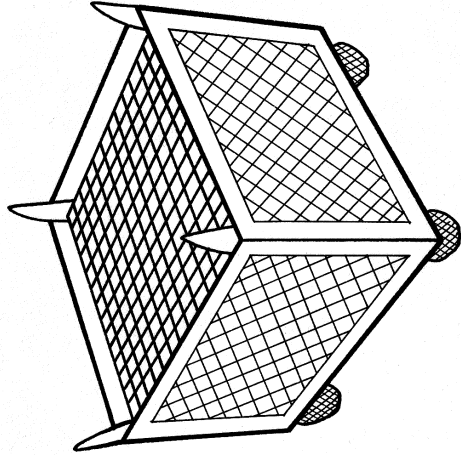
Table



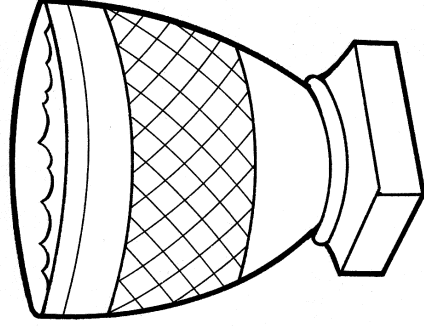
Ark of the Covenant



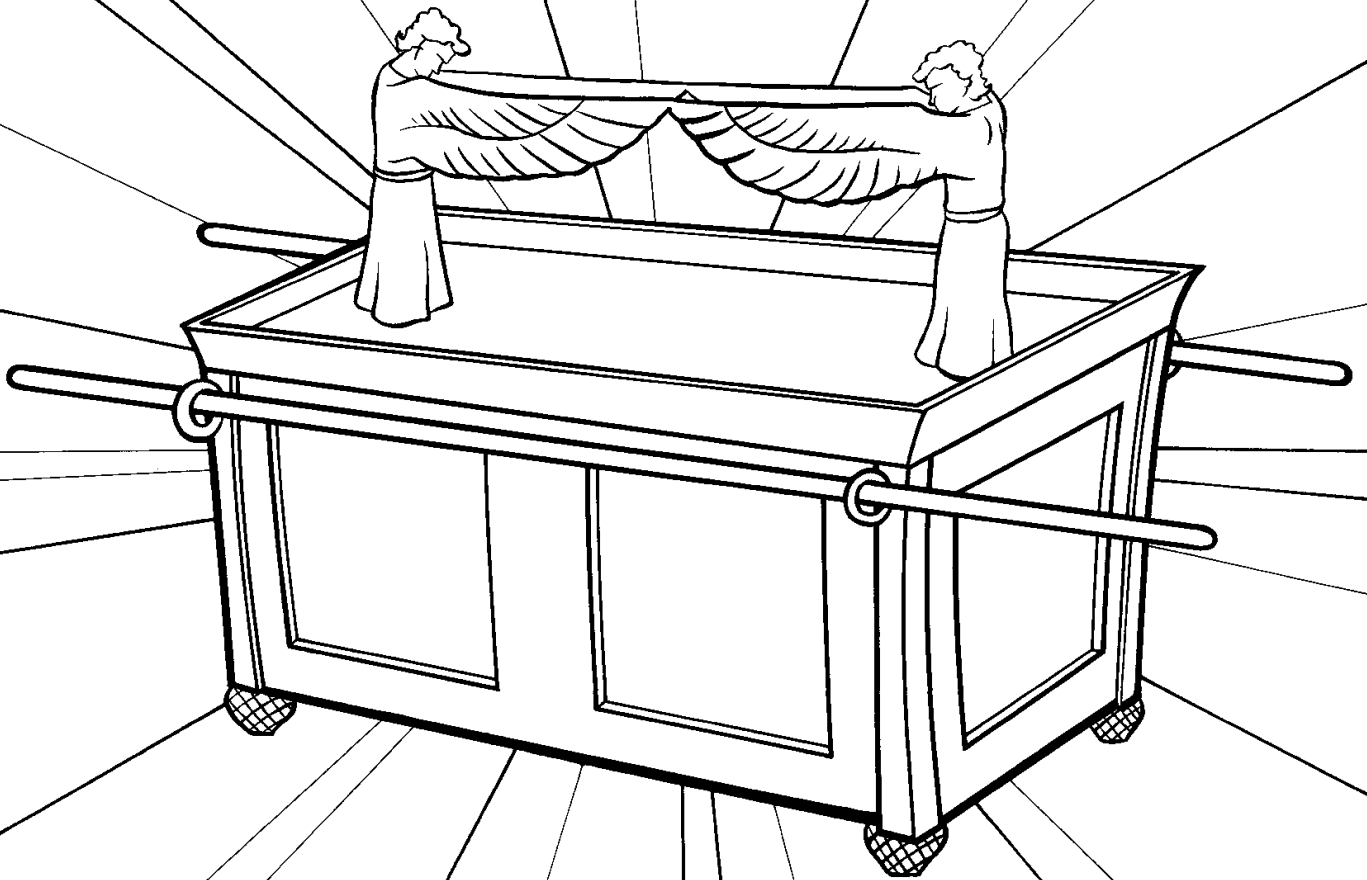
Lampstand



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).**

