

# The Tabernacle

## A Picture of Jesus

### MAIN POINTS:

God wants to dwell among His people

God is Holy (Exodus 19)

God makes the way through the tabernacle & ultimately through Jesus

**KEY VERSE:** Exodus 25:8 “And let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.”

	ARK	TABLE OF SHOWBREAD	LAMPSTAND	ALTAR	ALTAR OF INCENSE	LAVER
SCRIPTURE	Exodus 25:10-11, 16-22	Exodus 25:23-25,30	Exodus 25:31-33, 37, 40	Exodus 27:1-4	Exodus 30:1-10	Exodus 30:18-21
PURPOSE	Place where God would dwell	Reminder of God's provision	Give light to tabernacle	Make sacrifices for sin	Create aroma pleasing to God	Washing of priest before approaching God
PICTURE OF JESUS	Throne/ God dwells with man/ Emmanuel	Bread of Life	The Light	The Lamb	Intercessor	Cleanser of Sin
NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE	Revelation 4:2-8	John 6:47-58	John 8:12	John 1:29	Rev 1:4, Romans 8:33-34	I John 1:9

# The Tabernacle

## A Picture of Jesus

### MATERIAL LIST:

Collect these items to use as visuals for each lesson. Underneath is the main point to communicate for each item.

Notice what the furnishings are made of and where they are. The items needed for man to approach God, the altar and laver were outside and made of bronze. The items that represent an aspect of God are inside and made with gold.

PATTERN	VEIL	ARK	TABLE	LAMP STAND	ALTAR	ALTAR OF INCENSE	LAVER
House plan/ blue prints	Door, curtain	Gold coin or Jewelry/ Angel	Bread	Light/ flashlight/ candle/ oil	Lamb toy or stuffed animal	Incense/ candle/ essential oil or perfume (something with smell)	Water/ Soap/ Bowl
Plan/ Pattern	Separation	Holy, set apart	Provision	Light	Sacrifice	Pleasing Smell	Cleansing
		Covered in Gold Inside tabernacle	Covered in Gold Inside tabernacle	Pure Gold Inside tabernacle	Bronze outside tabernacle	Covered in Gold Inside tabernacle	Bronze outside tabernacle
		For God	For God	For God	For Man	For God	For Man

# The Tabernacle-A Picture of Jesus

## THE PATTERN

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 25:9, Hebrews 9:1-11, 24, Revelation 21:1-4

The tabernacle was to be constructed according to the instructions God would show them from the pattern of the real tabernacle. According to Hebrews the tabernacle was a copy of the real one, heaven itself, the presence of God. The tabernacle was the first dwelling place of God among men. Jesus was the ultimate way God dwelt with men. God became flesh to dwell with us. Eventually, there will be no need for a tabernacle because God will 'tabernacle' with men in heaven.

## THE VEIL

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 26:1-3, 7-9, 14,31-35, John 10:9, Matthew 27:37-54

The walls of the tabernacle were made of 10 curtains that were linked together with loops and clasps. There were also four layers to protect the tent from the weather, the innermost layer was linen, the second was goat's hair, the third ram's skin, and the last, and outermost was porpoise skin. There were two main parts or rooms to the tabernacle, the Holy place and the Holy of Holies. The Holy place was the main room with all the furnishings except the ark of the covenant. These were the furnishings the priests used to perform their duties. The inner most sanctuary called the Holy of Holies was where God dwelt. It contained the ark of the covenant. It was separated by an eight inch thick veil. God's presence was inaccessible to man. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year on the Day of Atonement to make sacrifice for all sin. When Jesus died the veil was torn in two from top to bottom, destroying the barrier between holy God and sinful man.

# The Tabernacle-A Picture of Jesus

## ARK

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 25:10-11, 16-22, John 1:14, Revelation 4:2-8

The ark of the covenant was a rectangular box with a lid on it called the mercy seat. It was covered in gold. On the mercy seat were two cherubim. The mercy seat was the place where God would sit among His people. This was the place where the smoke of His presence would fill the temple. Revelation 4 gives a description of the throne room of heaven, the real tabernacle. There are similarities between the two.

Measurements- Find the measurements of the ark of the covenant in verse 25:10: 2.5 cubits long x 1.5 cubits wide x 1.5 cubits high (a cubit=18 inches) Figure out in inches and feet how big the ark was.

Compare the mercy seat and God's throne room in. Use Exodus 40 and Revelation 4.(a seat, smoke, angels guarding)

## TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 25:23-25,30, Exodus 16:1-8, 13-15 John 5:29-41

The table of showbread was to hold 12 pieces of bread, one representing each of the tribes of Israel. It was covered in gold also. The bread also represented God's provision. The priest were allowed to eat the bread at the end of the week. It was then replaced with 12 new loaves. In John 5 Jesus says He is the bread of life. Jesus is our sustenance to live.

Measurements Find the measurements of the table in 25:23: 2 cubits long x 1 cubits wide x 5 cubits high (a cubit=18 inches). Figure out in inches and feet the size of the table.

Review the 12 tribes of Israel. Who were they? Where did they come from? Read Genesis 49.

Read I Corinthians 11:23--26. What does the bread represent?

# The Tabernacle-A Picture of Jesus

## LAMPSTAND

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 25:31-33, 37, 40, John 8:12

The lampstand was made of one piece of gold. It had 7 lights. It was lit with oil. The oil was poured into the cups at the top of the branch. It was to be lit at all times. Imagine how dark the tabernacle would be. There were no windows and four layers of covering on it. Jesus says that He is the light of the world. He is the illuminating guide of life. He stomps out the fear, the uncertainty, and the darkness.

Measurements: none. Look up Genesis 1. What is the first thing God made? Look up Revelation 22:5 What gives light in the new heaven and earth?

## ALTAR

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 27:1-4, John 1:29

The altar was the place where offerings, animals and food, were burnt as sacrifices for sin. The altar was at the front of the court of the tabernacle. It was outside the actual tent. And it was covered in bronze. It would have been constantly busy. The sacrifice consisted of an animal that was undamaged and spotless. Depending on the sacrifice and the wealth of the person, the animal could either be a pigeon, dove, lamb, goat, or bull. Jesus is the sacrifice for sin. His sacrifice was done once for all. He not only covered sin but conquered it and its consequence of death. Jesus is likened to a lamb because He was sacrificed as a lamb would have been.

Measurements: Find the measurements in 27:1: 5 cubits L x 5 cubits W x 3 cubits H (a cubit=18 inches) Figure out in inches and see the size of the altar.

Look up Exodus 14 and read about the Passover lamb. Read 2 Chronicles 4:1 and compare the size of the altar in the tabernacle with the one in Solomon's temple.

# The Tabernacle-A Picture of Jesus

## ALTAR OF INCENSE

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 30:1-10, Revelation 8:4, Psalm 141:2

The altar of incense was used to burn a special mix of incense and spices. It was covered in gold also. It was placed directly in front of the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the tabernacle. It was lit in the morning and at twilight, twice a day. It is a picture of the prayers being lifted up to God. Jesus as our intercessor who stand at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

Measurements: Find the measurements of the altar in 30:2: 1 cubits long x 1 cubits wide x 2 cubits high (a cubit=18 inches) Figure out in inches and feet how big the altar of incense was.

Read Luke 1. Who was working in the temple and ministering at the altar of incense?

## LAVAR

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 30:18-21, I John 1:9

The laver was a big bowl of bronze. It was used for the priests to cleanse themselves before they performed any of the rituals of their duties. Jesus cleanses us from our sin.

Measurements: none

Read John 3: 5 What does Jesus say one must be born of? Why?

# The Tabernacle-A Picture of Jesus

## THE ALTAR OF INCENSE- JESUS IS OUR INTERCESSOR

Romans 8:34

Jesus is He who died, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

## THE ARK OF THE COVENANT-JESUS IS GOD DWELLING WITH US

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## THE LAVER- JESUS IS THE CLEANSER OF OUR SIN

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## THE PATTERN- JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF GOD- TABERNACLE THE IMAGE OF THE TRUE TABERNACLE

Colossians 1:15

And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

# The Tabernacle-A Picture of Jesus

## THE VEIL-JESUS DESTROYED THE BARRIER

Matthew 27:51

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split.

## THE LAMPSTAND- JESUS IS THE LIGHT

John 8: 12

Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of light.

## THE ALTAR- JESUS IS THE SACRIFICE FOR SIN

John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

## THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD- JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."



