

The world says, "How can you guard your eyes and hearts? There are plenty of pretty guys and girls out there. What's wrong with flirting with one another? Besides, it is not like you are going to have sex."

You say, _____

g. God does not want us to gossip and slander other people.
The world says, "How can you not gossip? That's part of life. How else are you going to know the latest news?"

You say, _____

h. God does not want us to use "His name in vain."
The world says, "'Oh, my God!' is just an expression. Of course you don't mean it!"

You say, _____

i. God does not want us to hate our friends, family and enemies, because hating is like killing.

The world says, "What's wrong with a bit of hatred. Why be a goody-goody all the time?"

You say, _____

j. God wants us to read the Bible and pray to Him every day.
The world says, "That's for the nerds. Go and watch a movie and have a good time with your friends. Why be stuck in the house and read the Bible?"

You say, _____

REFLECTION & PRAYER



Love is a hard word to define. But when we love people, we try hard to show it. We might buy them cards, give them hugs, or cook them special meals. How does God feel your love for Him? What are you doing to let Him know? Think about some concrete things you have done recently to show your love for the Almighty Lord. When you send your love to God, is it short-lived or is it on a regular basis, despite the trials you are facing? In other words, do you love God as unconditionally as He loves you?

Lesson 7

Salvation in the Book of Exodus

Listed Scriptures

Ex 12:5-13, 12:15-20, 25:10-30:21; Jn 1:29; 1 Cor 5:6-8

Lesson Aim

1. To identify the teachings concerning salvation found in the book of Exodus
2. To build our own spiritual tabernacle

Memory Verse

"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Ex 19:6a)

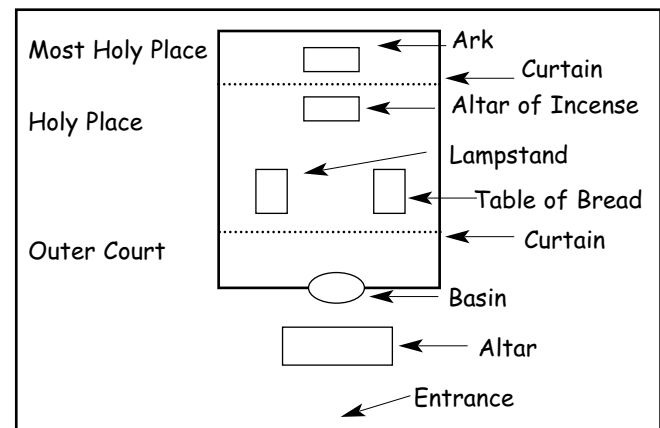
Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Exodus 21-30

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



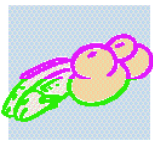
The tabernacle can be represented as follows:



Many materials were used in putting it together. They included gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn; fine linen; goat hair and ram skin dyed red; acacia wood; clear pressed olive oil and fragrant incense.



What do you think of when you think of the word “salvation”? More often than not, we will remember Jesus Christ, how He came into this world to suffer, die and resurrect, just so we can obtain eternal life. We might think about the New Testament and the gospel books since they talk about our Lord Jesus’ life. Actually, the book of Exodus contains several important teachings concerning our understanding of salvation, too. Let’s take a closer look at what they are.



Salvation in the Book of Exodus



A. Moses, the Savior of the Israelites

The life of Moses has many striking parallels to that of our Lord Jesus. By examining the similarities between these two lives, we are reminded of God’s plan of salvation for all people.

- a. Moses was born during a time when the Israelites were severely oppressed. Pharaoh wanted every infant boy to be killed but amazingly, Moses was spared and was eventually adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter. Similarly, Jesus Christ was born in a time when things were very corrupt. Although King Herod tried to kill Him, Jesus Christ escaped and fled to safety (Mt 2).
- b. Although he could have had all the luxuries the world could have afforded him, Moses chose not to indulge himself. Instead, he chose to suffer along with his people and went through forty years of vigorous training. Later on, God called him for a special mission. Likewise, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He could have had anything He wanted, yet for our sake, He went through many trials and much persecution in order to save our souls.
- c. Moses needed to perform many miracles and wonders to convince the people to trust in God. The Lord Jesus also performed many wondrous signs, proving He was God, the truth in the flesh (Acts 7:36, 2:22; Mt 11:2-5).

- d. After Moses prayed on behalf of the people, God rained down manna for forty years to sustain the lives of the Israelites in the wilderness. Our Lord Jesus is the ultimate bread of life. He is God, who came down from heaven, and He gives eternal life for those who believe in Him (Jn 6:33-35). Moses also looked for water to quench the thirst of the people. Our Lord Jesus gives us the water of life, which becomes “a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (Jn 4:14, 7:37-39).
- e. Like a savior, Moses delivered the Israelites out of hardship in Egypt and brought them to a land of their own. Our Lord Jesus is the Savior of mankind. He rescues us from sin and brings us into eternal life in heaven (Acts 7:35-36, 4:12; Mt 1:21; 1 Tim 4:10).



B. The Passover

The Passover was instituted just before the tenth plague. God instructed the Israelites to slaughter lambs on the 14th of the first month at twilight. Then they took some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their houses. On that same night, God passed through Egypt and struck down every firstborn. However, He did not enter the houses with blood on the doorframes. At midnight, there was loud wailing throughout the land because every Egyptian family awoke to find someone dead. It was only after this final plague that Pharaoh asked the Israelites to leave his country. Because God passed over the houses of the Israelites and delivered them from slavery, the Israelites commemorated their salvation by celebrating this day each year. Today, devout Jews still observe the Passover. Although we do not celebrate this day, there are some important teachings that we can learn from this feast.

a. The Passover Lamb

The animals used for the Passover sacrifice were year-old males (from sheep or goats), without defect. Salvation came upon the Israelites when the blood was shed and put on the doorframes. The sacrificial lamb prefigures Jesus Christ, who was crucified on the day of Passover to deliver the people of the world (Ex 12:5-13; 1 Cor 5:7; Jn 1:29). He was without sin but was willing to pour out His blood for us and remove our sins. We don’t celebrate Passover because Jesus Christ was the last sacrificial lamb, the final offering. Instead of continuing to commemorate God’s salvation of the Israelites once a year, we remember our Lord’s death and resurrection.

b. The Passover Feast

During the feast, the people ate meat roasted over a fire, along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. Each of these items represents

something in our salvation today. The roasting of the lamb represents the body of Jesus Christ and how He suffered greatly for us. The bitter herbs reminded the Israelites of their past sufferings in Egypt. Likewise, we should remember how much the Lord Jesus suffered for our sake and be determined to obey Him. The unleavened bread was made without yeast because yeast represents sin. God specifically told the Israelites to remove all yeast from their homes on the first day of the feast (Ex 12:15-20). The bread is symbolic of how the body of Jesus Christ is sinless and holy. Since we are a part of His body, we should also remain pure and refrain from committing sins (1 Cor 5:6-8).

Teaching Tips

Provide a copy of the graphical representation of the tabernacle as shown in the Bible Background Section so that it is easier for the students to follow along in the next section. Alternatively, the students can draw each part of the tabernacle as they are studied.

C. The Tabernacle

In Lesson 6, there was a brief summary on the tabernacle. We learned that it was a dwelling place for God to meet His people. The tabernacle prefigures the establishment of the true Church because the true Church has God's abidance (Heb 8:2; Rev 21:3). Placed within the tabernacle were six important items, along with the dividing curtain. Each of them reminds us of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Let's take a look at what they are.

a. Altar of Burnt Offering (Ex 27:1-8)

This was placed in the outer courtyard and was designated for sacrificing animals and the sprinkling of blood. Only after the animals were slaughtered could they be offered to God. Spiritually, it symbolizes the cross where Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself and shed His precious blood for us. After a believer is baptized in the blood of the Lord Jesus, his body becomes sanctified and is permitted to enter the gate of salvation (Heb 13:10-13).

b. The Bronze Laver (Ex 30:18-21)

After presenting the sacrifice, the priests needed to clean their hands and feet at this washbasin to wash away any dirt and filth. Spiritually, the act of cleansing symbolizes how a believer needs to constantly clean himself through the spirit and the truth so that he may become sanctified and be able to see God (Acts 1:5; Jn 3:5; Eph 5:26).

c. The Showbread (Ex 25:23-30)

The table for the showbread was located in the inner courtyard. Twelve loaves (12 represents perfection) of bread were to be set on this table before God, to be eaten by the priests (Lev 24:5-9). This bread symbolizes how Jesus Christ offered His life, serving as spiritual food for believers today.

d. The Gold Lampstand (Ex 25:31-37)

The lampstand was also kept in the inner courtyard. It had seven stands which were kept burning with olive oil (Lev 24:2). Spiritually, it symbolizes how believers should shine their light before men (Mt 5:16). The lampstand was hammered out of a single piece of pure gold. This symbolizes that the believers should be as one body.

e. Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-8)

The altar was placed in the inner courtyard. It was here that incense was burned to God. Symbolically, it represents the prayer of the saints (Rev 5:8, 8:3-4).

f. The Ark of the Testimony (Ex 25:10-16)

The ark was the only item placed in the Most Holy Place. It was sacred, for it was above the mercy seat that God came to meet His people. Three important objects were placed in it. First were the two tablets that contained the Ten Commandments. Second was the jar of manna. Third was the budded staff belonging to Aaron. Each of these objects holds spiritual significance for us today. Just as the tablets were stored in the ark, we should also store God's truth and laws within our hearts. The jar of manna represents the spiritual food we need in order to sustain ourselves. The budding of the staff is evidence of God's choosing. Today, only those spiritually reborn will belong to God.

g. The Curtain (Ex 26:31-33)

A curtain divided the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. No one could enter the Holy of Holies except the high priest to atone for the sins of the people once a year. Spiritually, this curtain represents the body of our Lord Jesus (Heb 10:19-20). When Jesus Christ breathed His last breath, the curtain was torn in half from top to bottom. Jesus Christ's body was broken for us and because of His sacrifice, we no longer need priests to pray for us on our behalf. Believers can freely enter to worship God (Mt 27:50-51).

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1

List some of the parallels between the life of Moses and that of Jesus Christ.

- 2 What is the significance of the Passover lamb for us today?
- 3 What were the six items found in the tabernacle?
- 4 What spiritual meaning does the Ark of the Testimony have for believers today?
- 5 What significance does the tearing of the curtain that divided the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place have for us?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



A Spiritual Tabernacle

Many people have tried to locate the ark over the years, but without much luck. Some say God does not want anyone to find it, so it will remain buried with the sands of time. Although the physical tabernacle may no longer exist, what is more important to us is the spiritual tabernacle God wants us to build. Today, each of us makes up this spiritual tabernacle. In essence, our bodies are sacred dwelling places for God. When we walk into a majestic cathedral, we show respect by quieting down and remaining as orderly as possible. Our attitudes as we enter the cathedral demonstrate how we view the building, as a place where people go to worship and to commune with God. Each of our bodies is the spiritual tabernacle of God; do we treat our bodies with respect and care? Take a look at the following questions and examine whether you see your body as a dwelling place for Jesus Christ.

Questions to think about:

1. *What do you do on a regular basis to keep your body clean and holy? Look at the picture of “your body” in the worksheet. Next to each of the labeled body parts (i.e. the eyes, the ears, the feet), write down two ways you can keep it holy. For example, how can you keep your eyes holy? What are some things you should be seeing or not seeing to keep them pure and unblemished? What about your feet? Are there certain places you should refrain from going that might tarnish your feet? What can you do with your feet that will help them remain on the path to the heavenly kingdom?*

Brainstorm as many ideas as you can for each body part and be ready to share your answers.

Head: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

Eyes: “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.” (Matthew 5:28-29)

Ears: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” (James 1:19)

Mouth: “But now you must also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.” (Colossians 3:8-9)

Hearts: “Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)

Hands: “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” (Colossians 3:23)

Feet: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

2. *Is your body clean of filth and dirt? Is there anything that might be polluting it in a way that prevents Jesus Christ from living there?*
3. *When you wake up every day, what do you do to invite God into your spiritual tabernacle?*
4. *How do you know that God is living within you?*

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



The Israelites took many months to build the tabernacle. They put a lot of effort and time into making it just as God specified. Today, we want to build up our own spiritual tabernacle. But unlike the Israelites, it will take more than just a few months. It is something we need to work on constantly. How can you remain pure and holy so that God will live inside of you?