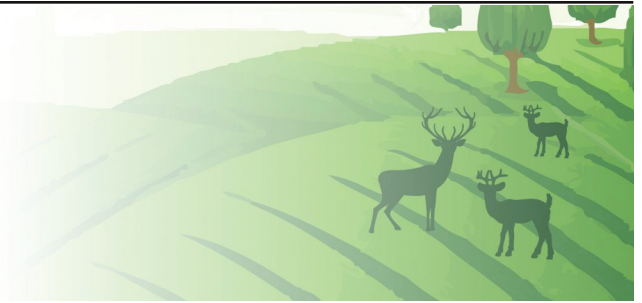


LESSON 3



THE TABERNACLE (PART 1)

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the structure of the tabernacle and its contents.
2. To understand the purpose of the tabernacle and its spiritual implications.
3. To know the importance of God's abidance in our lives.
4. To understand that the tabernacle is the Old Testament prefiguration of the true church today.

MEMORY VERSE

"And let them make Me a sanctuary,
that I may dwell among them."

(Exodus 25:8)

PRAYER

1. On this Holy Sabbath, we have laid aside the things of the world to come to God's house.
2. Thank God for establishing His church and for choosing us so that we have the opportunity to know His words and experience His grace.
3. May the true church be exalted on earth so that more people can find God and experience His wonderful presence and abidance.



Overview

1. **Make Me a Sanctuary**
 - a. The Purpose of the Tabernacle
2. **Building the Tabernacle**
3. **The Altar of Bronze Offering**
4. **The Bronze Laver**
5. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**
 - a. The True Church
 - b. The Lord Jesus is the Savior of mankind
6. **Life Application**—God's abidance?
7. **Activity**—God Is with Us



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Other Names for the Tabernacle

1. "The tabernacle of the LORD" or "the house of the LORD" (1 Kgs 2:28; 1 Chr 9:23; 6:48)
2. "The tabernacle of meeting" (Ex 29:42-44; 33:7; Num 11:16; 12:4; 17:4; Dt 31:14)
3. "The house of God" (Ex 25:8; Judg 18:31)
4. "The tabernacle of the Testimony" (Num 9:15; 10:11)
5. "The sanctuary of the LORD" or "the earthly sanctuary" (Ex 25:8; Num 19:20; Heb 9:1)

Time and Place of Construction

The construction of the tabernacle occurred after the Israelites came to the foot of Mt. Sinai. The tabernacle was erected on the first day of the first month of the following year (Ex 40:17).

The Journey of the Tabernacle

1. Established first at the foot of Mt. Sinai (Ex 40:1-33)
2. Traveled in the wilderness for 40 years along with the Israelites (Ex 40:34-38; Num 9:15-23; 10:11-12, 35-36)
3. Entered Canaan and placed at Gilgal (Josh 4:19; 5:10; 9:6; 10:6, 43)
4. Relocated to Shiloh until the time of the Judges (Josh 18:1; 19:51; 1 Sam 1:3, 9)
5. Moved to Nob (1 Sam 21:1-6)
6. Moved to Gibeon (1 Kgs 3:4; 1 Chr 21:29; 2 Chr 1:3)
7. Moved into the temple after the temple was constructed (1 Kgs 8:4; 2 Chr 5:4-5; 35:3)
8. From the first erection of the tabernacle to the completion of the temple of God was 491 years (1 Kgs 6:1, 37-38)

The Development of the Tabernacle and Its Prefiguration

1. Men called upon God (Gen 4:26)
2. The altar (Gen 8:20; 12:7-8)
3. The tent outside the camp (Ex 33:7-11)
4. The tabernacle of meeting, inside the camp (Num 2:1-2)
5. The house of the LORD (1 Sam 3:15)
6. Solomon's temple (1 Kgs 6:38; 8:1-11)
7. The body of believers (1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 5:1-4)
8. The True Church (Heb 8:1-6; 9:11; Rev 21:1-3)

The Construction of the Tabernacle

A. The outer court

1. The gate
2. The hangings
3. The bronze altar
4. The laver

B. The inner court (the holy place)

1. The curtains
2. The table of showbread
3. The golden altar of incense
4. The golden lampstand
5. The coverings

C. The Most Holy Place (the Holy of Holies)

1. The veil
2. The ark of the covenant
3. The holy garment of the high priest

D. Much of the tabernacle and its furniture was made of acacia wood. Acacia trees flourished in desert regions and were fairly common in OT times. The wood was brownish orange and very hard as a result of growing in adverse circumstances, thus making it an excellent material for furniture.

E. A Cubit

The word cubit comes from the Latin word *cubitus*, which means the lower arm. A cubit was a measure of length used by ancient people. However, it is difficult to determine the exact length, as it could include the entire length, from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger, or from the elbow to the base of the hand at the wrist. The longer length was most likely the standard cubit, making it about 18-20 inches.



Reaching Out to Your Students

God is the almighty Creator who created the heavens and the earth. And yet, God asked Moses to make for Him a dwelling place on earth. God did this because He wanted to establish a closer and more intimate relationship with His people to let them know that He was with them. It served as a visible reminder to the Israelites that God was with them. In the beginning, God's dwelling place was in the ark, inside the tabernacle, a tent. Later on, in order to provide a more permanent home for the tabernacle, King Solomon built the holy temple. But in the New Testament, God moved even closer to His people. Today, God doesn't dwell in a tent or a physical building—He dwells in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Our hearts have become the sanctuary and dwelling place of God.

Knowing that God dwells within us and is always with us will be an assurance and comfort to our students. They will learn that, despite the stresses and worries they may face at school or in their own lives, they can be assured that God is always with them. He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.



Opener

5 Minutes

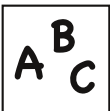
[Pass out construction paper, markers, and colored pencils to students before the lesson.]

Do you have your own bedroom? Or do you have part of a room that you share that's your own space?

I would like you to briefly sketch a map of your bedroom. Write or draw in the location of your furniture and things that are important and meaningful to you.

[Have students share the maps of their rooms and explain what is meaningful to them in the room.]

It sounds like you are proud of and happy about your spaces. Perhaps you decorated the room with your favorite pictures or posters, or you got painted in your favorite color. Perhaps you have your most treasured collection of books or games there. This room is important to you because it is your own special space, and it reflects what you like. It is where you sleep and where you spend time with your friends and time alone. It is your room!



Vocabulary

sanctuary: a sacred or holy place

tabernacle: a portable structure where the Israelites could worship God; "tent," "place of dwelling," or "sanctuary"



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Compile the worksheets in this lesson together as a booklet. Have a front cover on which students will write "THE TABERNACLE."

Cover – The Tabernacle
Worksheet 1 – A Sanctuary for God
Worksheet 2 – Inside the Tabernacle
Worksheet 3 – The Bronze Altar
Worksheet 4 – The Bronze Laver
Worksheet 5 – God's Abidance

Ask students to turn to the Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 and fill in the blanks as you go through this section. The answers are underlined.

A. Make Me A Sanctuary

After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they traveled for about three months until they came to the wilderness of Sinai. At Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. However, that was not all that God gave Moses. God also gave Moses very detailed and specific instructions to build a sanctuary for Him. Let us read Exodus 25:8. "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."

You might be asking, "What is a sanctuary?" A sanctuary is a sacred or holy place. This sanctuary or dwelling place of God was to be called the tabernacle.

Why did God want the people to make Him a sanctuary?

1. God dwells with man

"I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God" (Ex 29:45).

God really wanted His people, the Israelites, to understand that He was their God and that He desired to be with them. God told them to build a special place called a tabernacle as a way for them to see this. The tabernacle would be set up in the middle of the camp with each of the twelve tribes of Israel surrounding it. As the people traveled through the desert, they would pack up the tabernacle, carry it with them, and then set it up when God told them to stop traveling. Of course, God did not need a house for Himself. The tabernacle would be a visible sign for the Israelites that God was with them and that He wanted to establish an intimate relationship with His people.

2. God declares His commands

"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).

Among all the nations in the world, the Israelites were

chosen to be God's special people. As God's chosen nation, the Israelites had the privilege of receiving God's laws, something that no other nation in the world received. When Moses entered the tabernacle, God would meet and speak with Moses there. Moses would then declare God's laws to the Israelites.

2. God reveals His glory

"Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (Ex 40:34).

When Moses had completed the tabernacle according to God's commands, the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. The glory of God meant that the Israelites would experience the abundance of God and witness His power, His blessings, and His guidance if they obeyed His commandments.

B. Building the Tabernacle

Let's read Exodus 25:9.

"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."

God was very specific about how He wanted the tabernacle to be built. He knew the exact pieces of furniture He wanted to be made. He knew their dimensions, color, shape, and function. God had also planned where each piece of furniture was to be placed.

After God gave Moses the building instructions, the people brought their offerings for building the tabernacle. Moses also recruited skilled workers to do the work, and after eight months, the tabernacle and all the utensils were completed.

1. Inside the Tabernacle

The tabernacle was divided into three distinct areas.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to turn to Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 and fill in the map as you go along. Post a blank copy of the map on the board.

As you explain each section of the tabernacle, write the following names on the map and have students do the same on their own map:

- Outer Court
- The Sanctuary
- The Holy Place
- The Most Holy Place or The Holy of Holies

Likewise, label the items in each section, as indicated by the bold words under each heading. The answers are provided on page 36.

Let's take a walk through the sanctuary of God.

The Outer Court

As you entered the tabernacle by the east gate, you would come to the outer court. This was a rectangle with fences and linen curtains all around. Most of the buildings we see or live in are permanent structures made of brick or wood. The tabernacle, however, was more like a tent that could be packed up and transported when the Israelites traveled through the wilderness. The outer court was an area where only the chosen people, the Israelites, were allowed to enter and worship. The first piece of furniture you encountered was the **bronze altar** for animal sacrifices. Next would be the **bronze laver**, which contained water for the priests to wash with before entering into the tent.

The Holy Place

As you walked further, you would come to a structure. This was divided into two main sections by a large veil or curtain. The outer room was called the holy place, which contained the **table of showbread**, the **candlestick**, and the **altar of incense**.

The Holy of Holies (Most Holy Place)

On the other side of the veil was the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place. This was the most intimate and hidden part of the tabernacle. This was where the ark of the covenant, where God abided, was placed. Besides the high priest, no one was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to turn to Bible Discovery Worksheet #3 and follow along to complete the table. The answers are underlined.

C. Bronze Altar

Let us read Exodus 27:1-2, 6-7.

Material Used: Acacia wood

Shape: The altar was a square with four horns on its corners. It had poles on two sides for transportation.

Size: 5 cubits (7.5 feet) long, 5 cubits (7.5 feet) wide, and 3 cubits (4.5 feet) tall

What was the bronze altar used for?

In the Old Testament, the Israelites brought the animals to the priests to be killed and sacrificed to the Lord on the altar for their sins.

What does the bronze altar mean to me?

1. The altar of burnt offering prefigures how, in the same way that the animals were brought to the altar to be killed for the sins of the people, the Lord Jesus laid down His life upon the cross in order to take away the sins of the world.

2. The four corners of the altar show how Jesus came to

the world to die for the sins of the world. He came to save all people regardless of race, age, or gender.

Shape: Not specified, but it had a bronze base
Size: Not specified

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to turn to Bible Discovery Worksheet #4 and follow along to complete the table. The answers are underlined.

D. The Bronze Laver

Let us read Exodus 30:18-20 and Exodus 38:8.

Material Used: Bronze mirrors

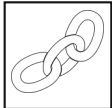
The laver was made from looking glasses that the women of Israel had carried from Egypt. Mirrors in those days were made of highly polished glass, and they were able to reflect the natural features of the person looking at them.

What was the bronze laver used for?

Before entering the tabernacle, the priests had to wash their hands and feet at the laver before they served, otherwise they would die. The washing of hands and feet at the laver represented sanctification and cleansing themselves from evil doings (Heb 12:14).

What does the bronze laver mean to me?

God's word is like a mirror, which reflects our spiritual appearance. It can show us our weaknesses, faults, and sins. The word of God has the power to cleanse and change us of our impurities and sins.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The True Church

In our lesson today, we learned that God wanted the Israelites to build the tabernacle to be the dwelling place of God. It was the place that God designated for the people to worship, meet, and fellowship with God. Today, God has established the True Jesus Church to be the place that bears His name. It is the church where we can find God and worship Him. In the true church, we have the presence of the Holy Spirit, the complete truth, and signs and miracles.

Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus came down in flesh to die on the cross for the redemption of sinners. He is the only Savior, and it is only through Him that we have the hope of everlasting life.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. Why did God want Moses to build a tabernacle?

- To dwell among His people
- To give the Israelites His commandments
- To show His glory

2. Name the three sections of the tabernacle. The outer court, the holy place, and the Holy of Holies.

3. What were the first two pieces of furniture you would see when you entered the tabernacle? The altar and the laver.

4. What was the purpose of the bronze altar? Animals were offered on the altar for the sins of the people.

5. What does the bronze altar signify? The Lord Jesus came to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.

6. What did the priests have to do before they served God? They had to wash their hands and feet at the laver.

7. What does the bronze laver teach us? We have to cleanse and sanctify ourselves with the word of God.

8. The tabernacle was a place where the people could meet and fellowship with God. Where can we find and worship God today? At the true church.



Life Application

10 Minutes

GOD'S ABIDANCE

[Ask students to turn to the Life Application worksheet. Go over Part A with the students. Then, for each section in Part B, allow the students to read the verse and fill in the blanks. Make sure the students have filled in the blanks for each section before moving on.]

A. Why do we need God's abidance?

- a. We find favor in God's sight (Ex 33:16; Lev 26:9-13). God will bestow His love and bountiful blessings upon us in our daily lives.
- b. We are God's special people (Ex 33:16). We are separate from the other people of the world because God has made us His own, and we belong to Him.
- c. We are protected and saved (Is 63:8-9). He will also help us overcome sin and protect us from the evil one because He is our Savior.

B. How can I obtain God's abidance?

Be filled with His Spirit (1 Jn 4:13)

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised the disciples that He would send down the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would dwell in their hearts and abide with them forever. This same promise has been given to us today. When the Spirit of God fills our heart, we know that God lives in and abides with us. No matter what we go through, God is with us. We know that God dwells in us when we begin to speak in tongues like the disciples when they first received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, gives us wisdom to make good choices, and gives us the strength to do His will and please Him.

Have the love of God (1 Jn 4:16b)

The Bible tells us that God is love. Therefore, when we love and help our family members, our friends, or even our enemies, we most resemble our heavenly Father. When God sees our loving actions, it touches and pleases Him, and He will abide with us.

Obey God's commandments (1 Jn 3:24a)

To have God's abidance does not simply mean coming to church each Sabbath. What is important to God is how we observe His commandments during the other six days of the week. He observes to see whether we obey our parents at home, if we are kind to others, or whether we keep ourselves holy. In order for God to abide with us, we need to demonstrate our love for Him by obeying His commandments in our daily lives.

Go to the place where God can be found (Dt 12:5)

If you had a problem such as a toothache, you would not go to a podiatrist (foot doctor) to find a cure for it. You need to go to the right place. In the same way, the Bible instructs us that in order to seek God and have His abidance, we have to go to the place where God can be found.

Today, the people of the world rely on their own wisdom and methods to find God. They go to mosques or temples. They worship idols or nature around them. Many believe that it doesn't matter how you worship Him or where you worship Him because God is everywhere.

But the Bible tells us clearly where we can find God.

Let's read Deuteronomy 12:5. "But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go."

Let's refer to Exodus 20:24b as well. "In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you."

To find God, we need to worship in a church that bears the name of Jesus, that follows the teachings of the Bible, and that has the Holy Spirit. Today, we have come to the right place. The True Jesus Church bears the name of Jesus and is where God can be found.



Activity

God Is with Us

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To review the ways to obtain God's abidance.

Instructions

1. Choose which memory verses you would like to use in the activity, and then refer to different game variations for variation-specific instructions. You can choose to incorporate more than one variation.
2. Pass out a list of the memory verses you have chosen to use for the activity, and give the students time to memorize the verses. Afterwards, ask the students to cover up the memory verse list.
3. Explain the game instructions to the students. Allow adequate time to complete each challenge.

Memory Verse List

1. "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 Jn 4:16b).
2. "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His spirit" (1 Jn 4:13).
3. "Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him" (1 Jn 3:24a).
4. "But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go" (Dt 12:5).

Variations

A. Chopstick Relay

1. Before class, write the memory verse(s) onto index cards, writing one word per card. Make one set per team. Fold the cards in half and place them on a table, making a triangle with the table as the bottom side. This way, the cards will be easier to pick up with chopsticks. Put one set on each table.
2. Divide the students into teams, and place the teams at the other end of the room. The students must relay race to the table to retrieve a word card using only their chopsticks. The team that retrieves all its cards and correctly arranges the memory verse first wins. To make the game fair, use the same verse for all teams.

B. Connect the Verse

1. Before class, write the memory verses onto index cards, writing one word per card. Keep each set of memory verse cards separate.
2. Divide the students into small groups. They will be working together to piece together a memory verse.
3. Shuffle each set of cards separately and deal each set to one group of students. The cards should be face down, with the words hidden. The students should each have at least one card, but they can have more.
4. Once the students have their cards, the group members take turns flipping over their cards. As each word is revealed, the group works together to place the words in the right order. They are not allowed to speak at all for this exercise. They must communicate silently until the verse has been placed in order.

C. Stack the Cups

1. Before class, count how many cups are needed for the verse(s) and then, using a marker, write one word from the memory verse(s) on each cup. Keep each set of memory verse cups separate.
2. Divide the class into as many teams as you have memory verses.
3. Give each team a set of cups with the words on them. On the word "go," see which team can stack the cups in order first in a pyramid fashion, starting from the top and reading left to right, without any of the cups falling off.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

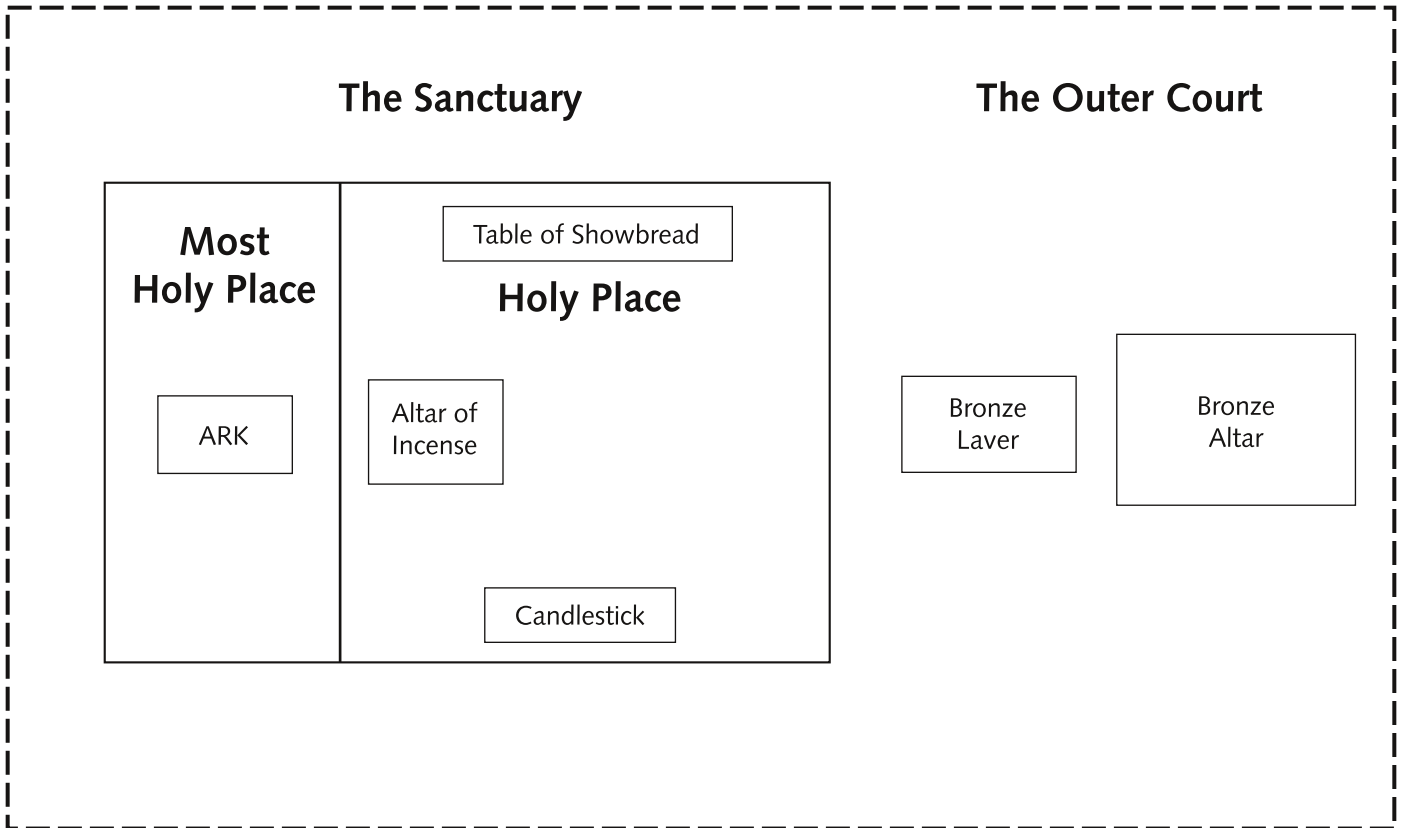
Across

- 6. mirrors
- 7. tabernacle
- 8. sins
- 9. dwell

Down

- 1. abide
- 2. Israelites
- 3. Jesus
- 4. laver
- 5. altar

The Tabernacle



A SANCTUARY FOR GOD

Fill in the blanks.

Why did God want the people to make Him a sanctuary?

1. God Dwells with Man

"I will _____ the children of Israel and will be their _____" (Ex 29:45).

God really wanted His people to understand that He was their _____ and that He desired to _____ them. The _____ would be a visible reminder of this special relationship between God and His people.

2. God Declares His Commands



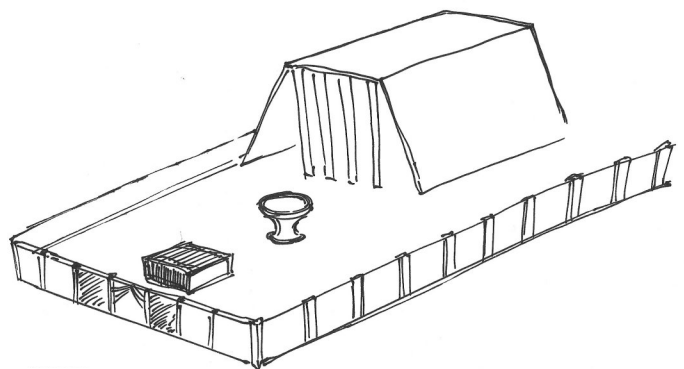
"And there I will _____ with you, and I will _____ with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, of _____ which I will give you in _____ to the children of _____" (Ex 25:22).

Among all the nations in the world, the Israelites were _____ to be God's special _____. As God's chosen nation, the Israelites had the privilege of _____ God's _____. God would speak with Moses in the tabernacle. Moses would then declare God's laws to the Israelites.

3. God Reveals His Glory

"Then the cloud covered the _____ of meeting, and the _____ of the LORD _____ the tabernacle" (Ex 40:34).

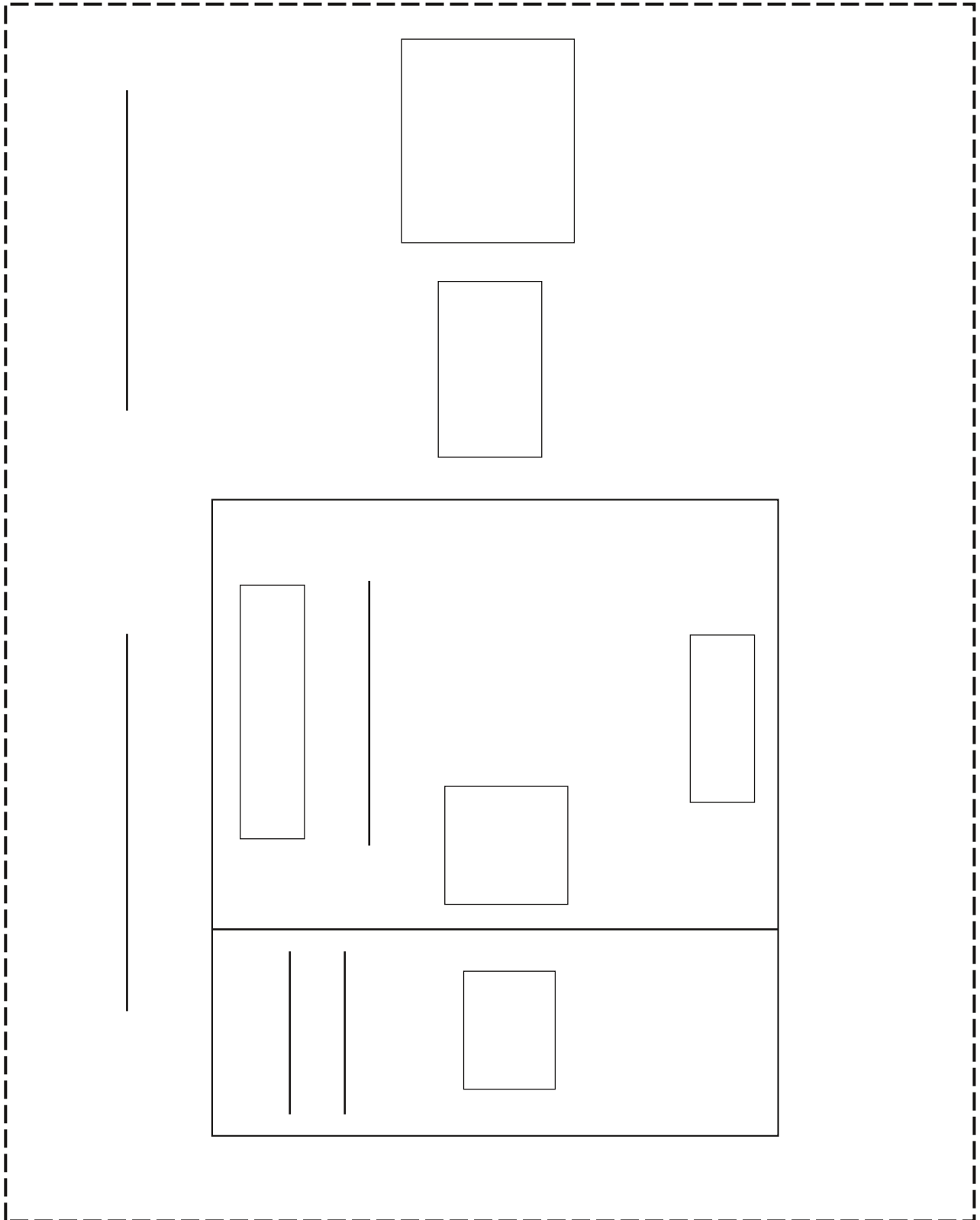
When Moses had completed the tabernacle according to God's commands, the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. The glory of God meant that the Israelites would experience the _____ of God and witness His _____, His _____, and His _____ if they obeyed His commandments.



INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

Label the map of the tabernacle.

East Gate

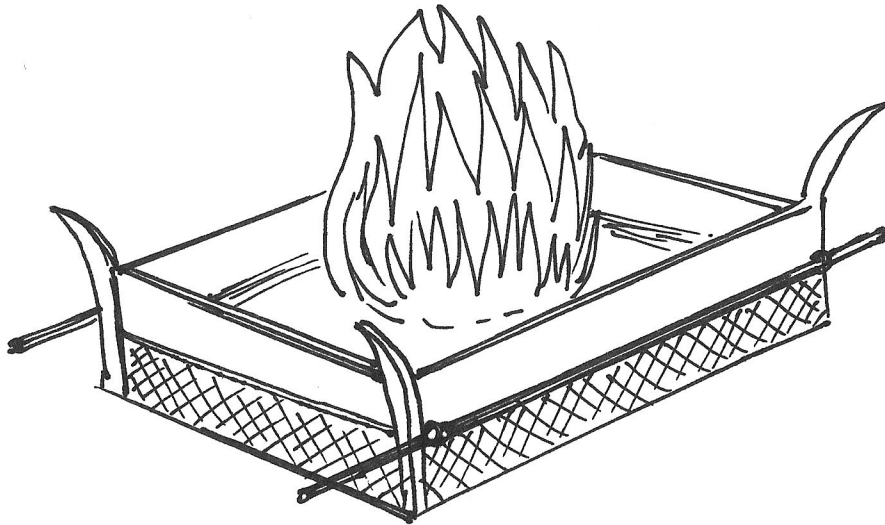


THE BRONZE ALTAR**Simple Facts***(fill in the information)*

Material Used:

Shape:

Size:

**What was the bronze altar used for?**

The Israelites brought the _____ to the priests to be offered to the Lord on the _____ for their _____.

What does the bronze altar mean to me?

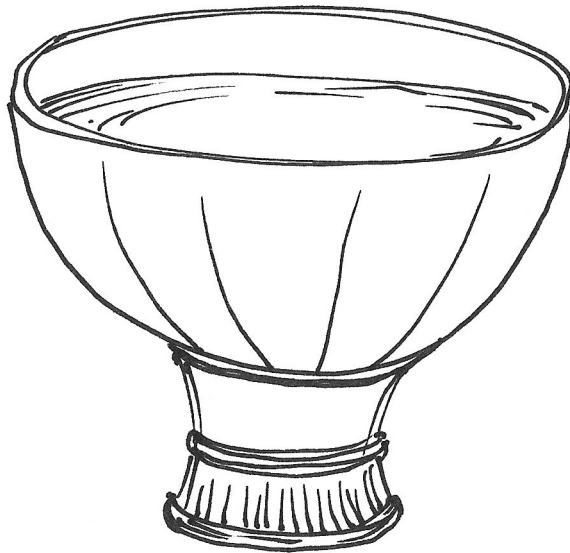
1. The _____ laid down His _____ for the sins of the world.
2. The horns on the altar show how the Lord came to save _____ people, no matter their race, age, or gender.

THE BRONZE LAVER**Simple Facts**
(fill in the information)

Material Used:

Shape:

Size:

**What was the bronze laver used for?**

The priests had to _____ their _____ and _____ at the laver before they _____, otherwise they would _____.

What does the bronze laver mean to me?

1. God's word is like a _____.
2. God's word can _____ and _____ me of my impurities and sins.

GOD'S ABIDANCE**A. Why do we need God's abidance?**

- a. We find favor in God's sight (Ex 33:16; Lev 26:9-13). God will bestow His love and bountiful blessings upon us in our daily lives.
- b. We are God's special people (Ex 33:16). We are separate from the other people of the world because God has made us His own, and we belong to Him.
- c. We are protected and saved (Is 63:8-9). He will also help us overcome sin and protect us from the evil one because He is our Savior.

B. How can I obtain God's abidance?**Be filled with His Spirit (1 Jn 4:13)**

The things I pray for are _____.

Each day, I spend about _____ praying.

The Holy Spirit is important to me because _____.

Have the love of God (1 Jn 4:16b)

When people are not nice to me, I _____.

One way that I can show love to others is _____.

The reason I love others is because _____.

Obey God's commandments (1 Jn 3:24a)

I find it _____ to listen to God and His commandments.

I show God that I love Him by _____.

One way that I obey God's commands is _____.

God's commandments are precious because _____.

Go to the place where God can be found (Dt 12:5)

Coming to church makes me _____.

I come to church each week to _____.

I come to the True Jesus Church because _____.

E2 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 3—The Tabernacle (Part 1)

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

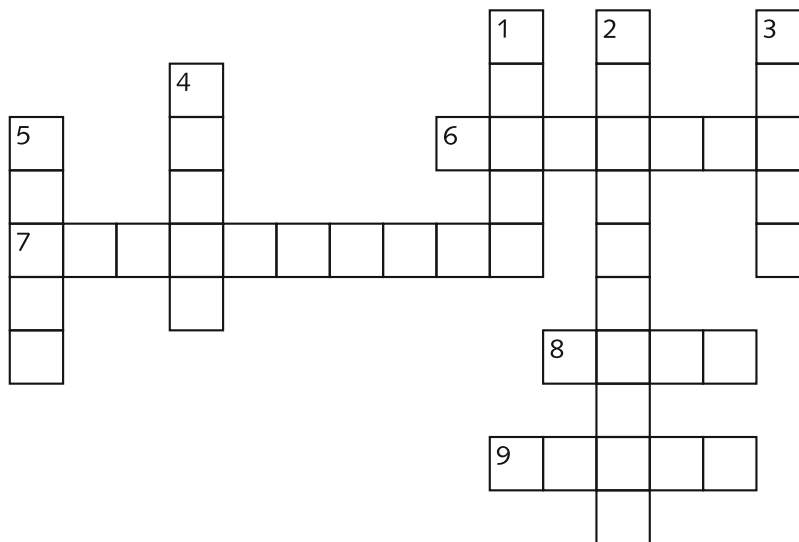
What I Learned from the Bible This Week

- _____
- _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Exodus 25:8)**

"The Tabernacle" Crossword Puzzle



Across

- The laver was made from bronze _____.
- The dwelling place of God was called the _____.
- The altar shows how the Lord came to die for our _____.
- God wanted to _____ among His people.

Down

- When we obey God's commandments, He will _____ with us.
- Only _____ were allowed into the outer court.
- We worship in the place that bears the name of _____.
- The priests washed their hands and feet in the _____.
- Animals were sacrificed on the _____.