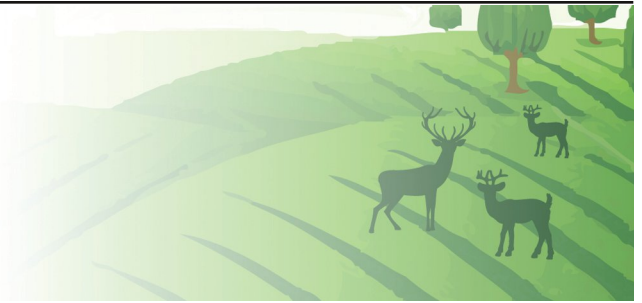


LESSON 4



THE TABERNACLE (PART 2)

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the pieces of furniture in the holy place and the Holy of Holies.
2. To learn about the spiritual significance of the furniture.
3. To learn about connecting and meeting God in prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

(Hebrews 4:16)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for bringing us once again into His holy temple to behold His glory and learn the truth.
2. Praise God for His wonderful mercy and grace, which allow us to personally come before Him, unlike in the Old Testament times.
3. Open our hearts and minds to know the effects and power of prayer.



Overview

1. The Holy Place

- a. The Golden Lampstand
- b. The Table of Showbread
- c. The Altar of Incense

2. The Holy of Holies

- a. The Ark of the Testimony

3. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

- a. The Holy Bible
- b. The Holy Spirit

4. Life Application—What Is Prayer?

5. Activity—Prayers Rising like Incense



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Altar of Incense

In the holy place, the altar of incense was an important piece of furniture. Not only was it the tallest piece of furniture, it occupied a central position between the table of showbread and the golden lampstand. It also stood directly in front of the veil before the mercy seat, where God abided in the Holy of Holies. This tells us that the noblest and most important work of a believer is to pray. Prayer is the sweetest thing that we can offer to God. God is pleased with our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, as they bring us to His presence.

The effectiveness of our ministry of teaching depends on how much we spend in the secret place of prayer giving the best of our time and fellowship with God. Through prayer, our insufficiencies and inadequacies in teaching are supplied and met.

Inside the Ark

According to the Old Testament account in 1 Kings 8:9, the sole contents of the ark were the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, which Moses had received from God at Mount Sinai (Ex 20).

In the New Testament however, three precious things were found in the ark (Heb 9:4)

- a. The two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, which Moses had received from God at Mount Sinai. These represent the laws of God that should be written on our hearts.
- b. A golden pot of manna (Ex 16:31-35). This represents the words of God that we should receive with faith.

c. Aaron's rod that budded (Num 17:1-11). In the OT, God caused Aaron's rod to bud, producing blossoms and ripe almonds, as a sign

that Aaron and his descendants were especially chosen by God to serve Him. Today, this represents how God has manifested His power to save and choose us as His children to bear spiritual fruit.

Review

Last week, we began our tour of the tabernacle, which is God's dwelling place.

The tabernacle was the place where God dwelt among the people, where He declared His commandments, and where He revealed His glory. The tabernacle no longer exists as it did in the OT, but we do have a spiritual tabernacle. Where is this? That's right, it is the true church, a place where God has placed His name and where He abides. It is a place to communicate with God in prayer and worship.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Students may find it hard to grasp the symbolism behind many aspects of the tabernacle. For example, concepts such as animal sacrifice and the sprinkling of the blood on the altar, the showbread, the veil, or the presence of God on the ark, and how these are but the shadow of what was to come in the New Testament, are difficult to comprehend. Although this may be the case, our students should readily understand the life applications behind the individual items in the tabernacle.



Opener

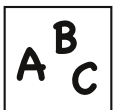
5 Minutes

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

Last week, we shared a map of our bedrooms. Today, let's draw another map of our bedroom, but this time, we'll move the furniture around.

[Have students draw a map of their rooms with the furniture in the wrong places.]

Now, let's take a look at our rooms. What do you think of the layout now? It probably feels weird or wrong, right? [Let students share.] Today, we will learn how, just as every of furniture in our room has its own place where it belongs, every item in the tabernacle also had a place where it belonged.



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, and have students them to the booklet started in the previous lesson.

Worksheet 1 – The Golden Lampstand
Worksheet 2 – The Table of Showbread
Worksheet 3 – The Altar of Incense
Worksheet 4 – The Ark of the Testimony
Worksheet 5 – What Is Prayer?

Ask students to turn to Bible Discovery Worksheet #1. They will follow along and fill in the worksheet. The answers are underlined.

The Holy Place

Today we are going to continue with our journey through the tabernacle. We will enter into a part of the tabernacle called the holy place.

In the Old Testament, only the priests could enter into this part of the tabernacle to serve. They would commune with God and perform the daily sacrifices and rituals.

Three items were placed here:

- The golden lampstand
- The table of showbread
- The altar of incense

A. The Golden Lampstand

Firstly, let us turn to Exodus 25:31-32 and 27:20-21.

Materials Used: One piece of solid gold, as opposed to several pieces being joined together. The amount used was one talent (125 pounds) of pure gold.

Shape: It had seven branches, and there were bulbs and flowers design on the branches.

Size: Not specified.

What was the golden lampstand for?

- The lamps were oil lights and were to be burned continually, never to be extinguished.
- Pure olive oil was used to light the lamps (Lev 24:2).
- It was designed to provide light in the holy place so that the priests could walk and minister in the light.
- The priests had to trim the wicks and keep the lamps burning.

What does the golden lampstand mean to me?

- Jesus is the light of the world.
- God wants us also to shine the light for Him.
- We need to let the people around us see our good deeds day and night.

- The pure olive oil represents the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with God's Spirit, we can shine brightly for the Lord.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to turn to Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 and follow along to complete the table. The answers are underlined.

B. The Table of Showbread

Let us read Exodus 25:23-26 and Leviticus 24:5-9.

Materials Used: Acacia wood; pure gold overlay

Shape: Four rings at the four corners

Size: 2 cubits (36 inches) long, 1 cubit (18 inches) wide, and 1.5 cubits (27 inches) high

What was the table of showbread for?

- Each Sabbath, twelve fresh cakes were baked and placed on the table before the Lord. This was to be done continually.
- Aaron the high priest and his sons were to eat of this bread in the holy place.

What does the table of showbread mean to me?

- The bread represents the word of God. We should eat of God's words constantly by attending services and reading the Bible daily.
- Each Sabbath, the cakes were to be baked, and Aaron and his descendants were to eat of it. This teaches us that we should receive the word of God, especially on the Sabbath, by coming to church and listening to His words.
- The word of God is pure, refined, and everlasting.

FOR TEACHERS

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

C. The Altar of Incense

Let us read Exodus 37:25-29.

Materials Used: Acacia wood; pure gold overlay

Shape: There are horns in each of the corners and a border of gold all around. On both sides of the altar were two rings through which poles were put to allow the altar to be carried.

Size: 1 cubit (18 inches) long, 1 cubit wide, and 2 cubits (3 feet) high.

What was the altar of incense for?

Every morning and evening, Aaron the high priest was to burn sweet incense upon the altar. The incense had to be burned from generation to generation without ceasing (Ex 30:7-8).

What does the altar of incense mean to me?

- Burning incense represents our daily prayers. The incense was a symbol of our prayers going up to God. To God, our prayers are like the sweet fragrance of incense (Ps 141:2).
- We need to pray every morning and evening without ceasing (Eph 6:18; 1 Th 5:17).
- The altar was a square with four corners. This reminds us that we should pray for all the people of the world.
- The altar of incense was placed immediately before the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat where God dwelt (Ex 30:6). This teaches us that prayer bring us closest to God.

The Holy of Holies

After journeying past the holy place, you would notice a veil behind the altar of incense. This veil separated the holy place and what was beyond it: the most hidden, sacred, and intimate part of the entire tabernacle. This was the Holy of Holies. No one but the high priest was allowed to enter into this sacred part of the tabernacle. He would enter once a year on a special day called the Day of Atonement, where he would offer sacrifices for his own sins and the sins of the people. In this innermost room stood only one item—the ark of the Testimony.

FOR TEACHERS

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

D. The Ark of the Testimony

Read Exodus 25:12-14.

Materials Used: Acacia wood; pure gold overlay

Shape: There were four gold rings, one at each of the ark's

four corners, in which poles were inserted. This allowed the ark to be carried.

Size: 2.5 cubits (45 inches) long, 1.5 cubits (27 inches) wide, and 1.5 cubits (27 inches) high

The Lid of the Ark—the Mercy Seat

Let us read Exodus 25:17-22.

Material Used: Pure gold

Shape: On the lid were two gold cherubim that faced each other with outstretched wings covering the mercy seat.

Size: Two and a half cubits (45 inches) long, and a cubit and a half (27 inches) wide

Inside the Ark

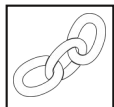
What was inside the ark? The two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, which Moses had received from God at Mount Sinai (Ex 20).

What was the ark of the Testimony for?

- God dwelt in the tabernacle on the mercy seat, between the wings of the cherubim.
- The mercy seat was where God spoke with Moses.
- Once a year, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of animals on the mercy seat for the sins of the people.

What does the ark of the Testimony mean to me?

- In the Old Testament, ordinary Israelites could not come before the ark. The ark was always hidden behind the veil. Only the high priest could come before the ark once a year. This was because the ark represented the presence of God, and ordinary Jews could not come before God. However, through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, our sins have been washed away, which enables us to come before God face-to-face. We no longer need a priest to pray and act on our behalf. Each of us can spend time alone with God to worship and have spiritual fellowship with Him.
- The ark contained the stone tablets upon which were the Ten Commandments. These represent the laws of God that we should have written on our hearts.

**Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible

God commanded that twelve fresh cakes be baked and placed on the table each Sabbath. The fresh cakes represent the heavenly bread, the word of God. We need to eat of God's words daily. Eating of God's word means to read the holy Bible each day so that we can be nourished and strengthened spiritually.

The Holy Spirit

From evening until morning, the priests were to light the lamps with pure olive oil. The oil represents the precious Holy Spirit. We need to pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to overcome weaknesses and to shine brightly in this dark world.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Name the items found in the holy place.** The golden lampstand, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense.
- 2. What single item is found in the Holy of Holies?** The ark of the Testimony.
- 3. What does the ark of the Testimony contain?** The Ten Commandments on stone tablets, the golden pot of manna, and Aaron's budding rod.
- 4. When were the twelve fresh cakes to be displayed on the table and what did it mean?** The cakes were to be on the table every Sabbath. They represent the word of God that we are to receive, particularly on the Sabbath.
- 5. When did the priest have to burn the incense on the altar? What teaching does this have for us?** The priest had to burn incense every morning and evening. This teaches us that we have to pray each morning and evening.
- 6. Which piece of furniture was closest to the ark of the Testimony? What teaching does this have for us?** The altar of incense was immediately before the ark. This teaches us that prayer brings us closest to God.
- 7. What was used to light the lampstand? What does that represent today?** Pure olive oil was used to light the lampstand, and it represents the Holy Spirit.
- 8. What duty did the high priest perform in the Holy of Holies once a year?** Each year, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of animals on the mercy seat for the sins of the people.



Life Application

10 Minutes

What Is Prayer?

In the holy place, the altar of incense was an important piece of furniture. Not only was it the tallest piece of furniture, but it also occupied a central position between the table of showbread and the golden lampstand. It also stood directly in front of the veil and the mercy seat where God abided in the Holy of Holies. This tells us that the noblest and most important work of a believer is to pray. Prayer is the sweetest thing that we can offer to God. God is pleased with our worship, praises, and thanksgiving, as they bring us closest to Him. Through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, we are no longer hidden from the mercy seat where God is; instead, we can come directly before God and experience His abidance and presence.

Read Hebrews 4:16. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." This verse reminds us that we can boldly and courageously come before God in any situation, as He will supply us with mercy and grace. He will fill the needs of our heart, and we will experience righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- It is a time to connect with God, and to praise and thank Him.
- It is a time where we can come before God and open our hearts to Him.
- It is a time when we can make our requests known to God.
- It is a time to tell God about the needs of our family, church brethren, and friends.

[Hand out the Life Application Worksheet to the students, and ask them to fill in the blanks as you go over the worksheet with them. The answers are provided below.]

<u>Type of Prayer</u>	<u>Reference Verse</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Praise God for His Works	Dan 2:20-23	blessed, praised, thanked, wisdom, might
A Repentant Prayer	Neh 1:4-9	day, night, commandments
Individual Prayer Request	1 Sam 1:10-11, 20	male child, Samuel
Prayer to receive the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1, 4; 1:8	one accord, pray, Holy Spirit, pray, tongues, power, witnesses
Intercession – Prayer for the Preaching of the Gospel	2 Th 1:1; 3:1	word, Lord, swiftly, glorified
Intercession – Prayer for Others	Acts 12:5, 11	prison, prayed
Remind God of His Promises	2 Chr 20:5-9	power, might, land, hear, save, cried



Activity

Prayers Rising like Incense

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind students that our prayers are like incense.

“Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice” (Ps 141:2).

Materials

- Construction paper
- Colored markers and pencils
- Tape, scissors, glue

Instructions

1. Before class, create an altar of incense using yellow construction paper.
2. Have each student draw and cut out smoke-like templates on construction paper of their choice.
3. On the templates, have the students write a prayer or two, time permitting. Select from the following types: prayer of praise and thanksgiving, repentant prayer, prayer for the Holy Spirit, individual prayer request, intercessory prayer for the church or others, or prayer reminding God of His promises. Students may wish to draft their prayers on scratch paper first before copying them onto the templates.
4. Display the altar on a wall and arrange the prayers so that they rise up towards heaven.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Answers may vary.
2. We can come to church and take notes while listening to the sermons. We can also attend RE class and remember the memory verse for that lesson. At home, we can read the Bible before and after we go to church to prepare our hearts.
3. We can show love to those who are around us, either by helping them out physically or praying for them spiritually. It is our goal to let others see our good deeds so that we can glorify the name of God.
4. Answers may vary.

THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

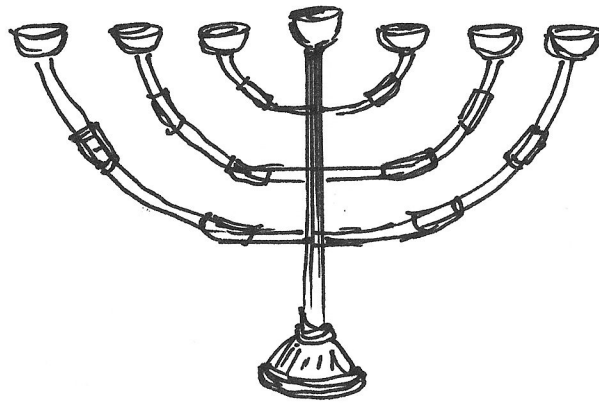
Simple Facts

(fill in the information)

Material Used:

Shape:

Size:



What was the golden lampstand for?

1. The lamps were oil lights and were to be _____ continually.
2. Pure _____ oil was used to light the lamps (Lev 24:2).
3. It was designed to provide _____ in the holy place so that the priests could walk and minister in the light.
4. The priests had to _____ the _____ and keep the lamps burning.

What does the golden lampstand mean to me?

1. Jesus is the _____ of the _____.
2. God wants us also to _____ the light for Him.
3. We need to let the people around us see our _____ day and night.
4. The pure olive oil represents the _____. When we are filled with God's Spirit, we can shine brightly for the Lord.

THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

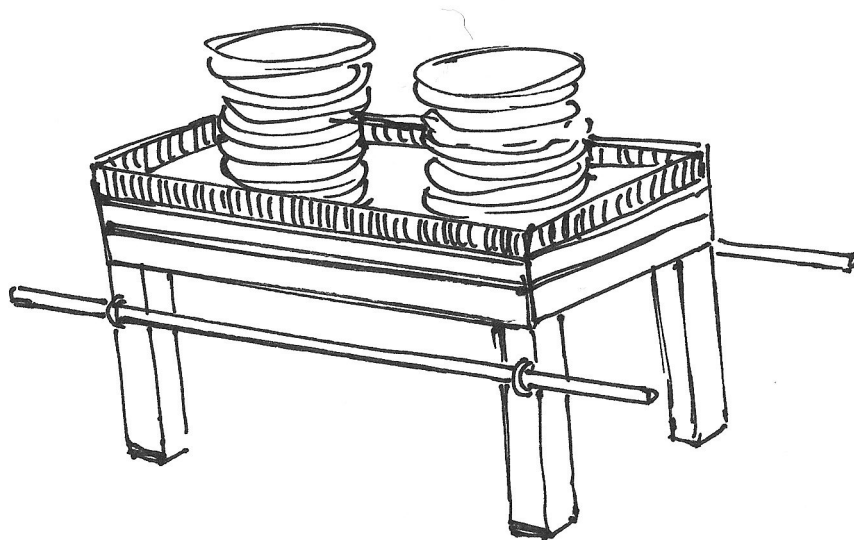
Simple Facts

(fill in the information)

Material Used:

Shape:

Size:



What was the table of showbread for?

1. Each _____, _____ fresh cakes were baked and placed on the table before the Lord. This was to be done continually.
2. Aaron the _____ and his sons were to _____ of this bread in the holy place.

What does the table of showbread mean to me?

1. The bread represents the _____ of _____. We should eat of God's words constantly by _____ and _____ the _____ daily.
2. We should receive the word of God, especially on the _____, by coming to church and listening to His words.
3. The word of God is pure, refined, and _____.

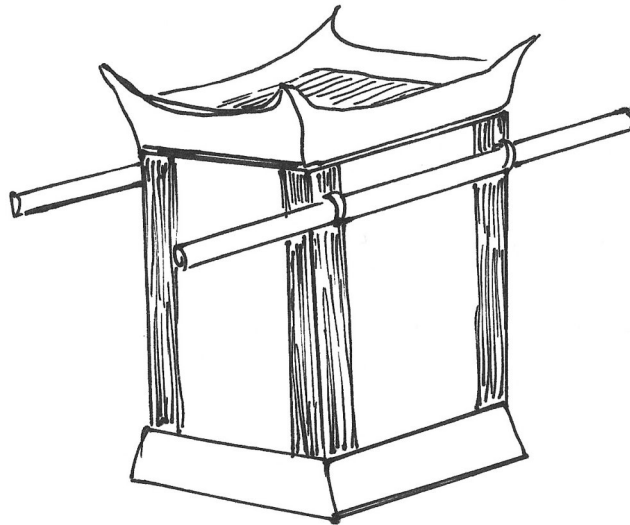
THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

Simple Facts (fill in the information)

Material Used:

Shape:

Size:



What was the altar of incense for?

Every _____ and _____, Aaron the high priest was to burn sweet _____ upon the _____. The incense had to be burned from generation to generation without ceasing (Ex 30:7-8).

What does the altar of incense mean to me?

1. Burning incense represents our _____. To God, our prayers are like the sweet fragrance of incense (Ps 141:2).
2. We need to pray every _____ and _____ without _____ (Eph 6:18; 1 Th 5:17).
3. The altar was a _____ with four corners. This reminds us that we should pray for all the _____ of the _____.
4. The altar of incense was placed immediately before the _____ of the _____ and the mercy seat where _____ dwelt (Ex 30:6). This teaches us that _____ brings us _____ to God.

THE ARK OF THE TESTIMONY

Simple Facts

(fill in the information)

The Ark

Material Used:

Shape:

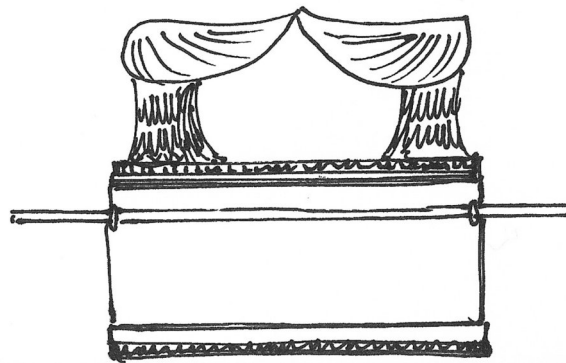
Size:

The Lid of the Ark—the Mercy Seat

Material Used:

Shape:

Size:



What was the ark of the Testimony for?

1. The Israelites believed that God _____ among them in the tabernacle on the _____, between the _____ of the _____.
2. The mercy seat was where God spoke with Moses.
3. Once a year, the _____ would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the _____ of _____ on the mercy seat for the _____ of the people.

What does the ark of the Testimony mean to me?

Today, we no longer need a _____ to go into God's presence and ask for God's forgiveness for _____ on our behalf. Through the sacrifice of the _____, our sins have been washed away, and we can now come before God _____-to-_____. We can spend time alone with God to worship and tell Him all our needs.

The ark contained the _____ containing the Ten Commandments. These represent the _____ of _____ that we should have written on our _____.

What Is Prayer?

- It is a time to connect with God, and to praise and thank Him.
- It is a time where we can come before God and open our hearts to Him.
- It is a time when we can make our requests known to God.
- It is a time to tell God about the needs of our family, church brethren, and friends.

Type of Prayer	My Prayer
<p>Praise God for His Works</p> <p>Read Dan 2:20-23.</p> <p>God had shown Daniel the meaning of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Daniel _____, _____ and _____ God for His _____ and _____.</p>	<p>Thank and praise God for the goodness and blessings He has given you in the past and present.</p>
<p>A Repentant Prayer</p> <p>Read Neh 1:4-9.</p> <p>Nehemiah prayed _____ and _____ for the sins of Israel. He understood that God had punished them by allowing the enemies to capture them to a foreign land because they had not kept His _____.</p>	<p>Tell God about the weaknesses you have been struggling with lately. Ask God for forgiveness and help to overcome them.</p>
<p>Individual Prayer Request</p> <p>Read 1 Sam 1:10-11, 20.</p> <p>Hannah came before the Lord and prayed with all her heart to have a _____.</p> <p>God answered her prayer and granted her the boy _____.</p>	<p>Open up your heart and let your requests be made known to God.</p>

<p>Prayer to Receive the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Read Acts 2:1, 4; 1:8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disciples had gathered with _____ in one place to _____. • God heard their prayers and poured down the _____ and they began to _____ in _____. • The disciples received _____ from on high and became _____ for the Lord. 	<p>God has promised His Spirit to us. Tell God your desire and hope to receive the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Intercession – Prayer for Preaching of the Gospel</p> <p>Read 2 Th 1:1; 3:1.</p> <p>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy asked for the church in Thessalonica to pray that the _____ of the _____ may be preached _____ and be _____.</p>	<p>Pray for the spreading of the gospel and the ministers who labor for the gospel.</p>
<p>Intercession – Prayer for Others</p> <p>Read Acts 12:5, 11.</p> <p>Peter was put in _____ for preaching the word of God. The church _____ for Peter constantly and he was eventually freed from prison.</p>	<p>Is there a family member, friend, or church brother/sister who needs your prayer at this time? Tell God.</p>
<p>Remind God of His Promises</p> <p>Read 2 Chr 20:5-9.</p> <p>In his prayer, King Jehoshaphat reminded God of the promises that He had spoken.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He reminded God of His _____ and _____ to save. He reminded God that He had given the _____ of Canaan to them. He also reminded God that He would _____ and _____ His people if they _____ out to Him. <p>As a result, God delivered the people from the enemies.</p>	<p>Take God at His promise. Write down a promise that God made for you.</p>

