

THE TABERNACLE

God lives among His people.



THE STORY: EXODUS 25:1-8

MONDAY

God announced His plan to live among His people

God announced His plan to live among His people – God called Moses to collect specific items from the people and build a tabernacle. The tabernacle was where God decided to rule and dwell among His people. It was made to exact specifications using the gold and precious items collected. The word “tabernacle” means tent or dwelling. In the Old Testament God made His dwelling in a literal tent. The tabernacle was God’s house and it confirmed God’s living presence among His people. God’s active presence set Him apart from the dead stone idols of the other nations. His presence among His people marked His blessing first in Eden. Here we see his presence among the people of Israel. God was present among us when Jesus came to earth. Now God’s active presence is in the Church by the Holy Spirit. Finally, his presence will be with us in heaven where we will behold the Lord face to face.

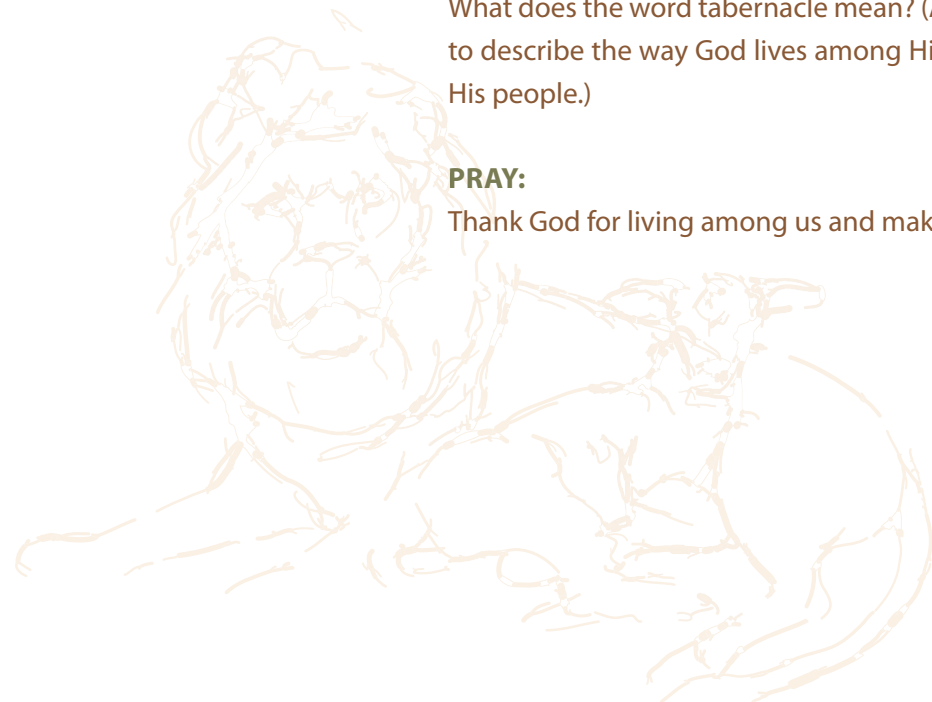
Talk About it:

Where did the Israelites get all the gold needed to make the furnishings for the tabernacle? (They were poor slaves prior to leaving Egypt. When they left Egypt, the Egyptians gave them gold, silver, and other precious items that God intended to use for His house.)

What does the word tabernacle mean? (A tabernacle is a tent. The word is also used to describe the way God lives among His people. God is said to tabernacle among His people.)

PRAY:

Thank God for living among us and making Himself known.





God's plan for His house had a purpose

God's plan for His house had a purpose – God gave detailed plans for all of the tabernacle and all of its furnishings. The tabernacle and furnishings became the central focus of worship in Israel. God's presence would dwell in the tabernacle and sacrifices would be made there for the people's sins. The square inner court of the tabernacle formed the model for the temple and even the new Jerusalem to come (Revelation 21:16).

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are the two rooms called inside the tabernacle? (*The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.*)

Which room was the ark of the covenant with the atonement cover placed in? (*The ark was placed in the Most Holy Place.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for preserving the details of the Tabernacle for us.



Where is Jesus?

The tabernacle was set up to have an inner court of two rooms. The Holy Place was the first room, and within it, the Most Holy Place. The Most Holy Place is also known as the Holy of Holies. A curtain divided the two. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, once a year, as a mediator between God and man. Each year he offered an atoning sacrifice for the people. This sacrifice was not a perfect sacrifice because it had to be repeated year after year. Jesus came as the perfect sacrifice. When He died on the cross, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. God wanted everyone to understand that Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient for all time and that the barrier between man and God had been removed in Christ. God would now tabernacle, or dwell, in and among His people. From that moment on, God's people became the temple of God and His presence dwells continually in our hearts. John tells us the Word became flesh and made His dwelling (tabernacled) among us. Note: This reference to John's Gospel is about Jesus dwelling with us upon the earth prior to his ascension. I suggest you use 1Cor. 3:16-19 -- which is what you have been talking about.

TALK ABOUT IT:

God lived in the tabernacle in the time of Moses. Where does God dwell today? *(God dwells in the hearts of believers. We are His living tabernacle according to 2 Corinthians 6:16)*

Why was the temple curtain torn after the death of Christ? *(The temple curtain was torn to show us that the barrier which kept people away from God's presence has been removed. We can all approach the throne of grace with confidence because of the sacrifice of Jesus.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus which tore down the barriers between man and God.



THE STORY: EXODUS 27:1-8

THURSDAY

God gave specific instructions for the altar of God.

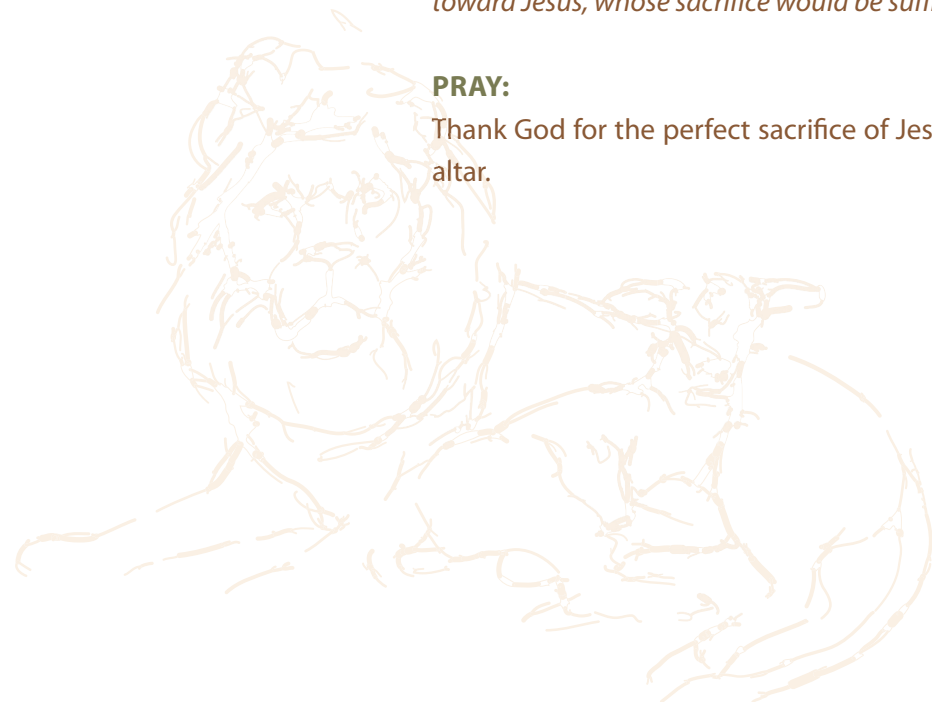
God gave specific instructions for the altar of God. Countless sacrifices were burned upon the altar, and the blood of countless animals was sprinkled upon it to atone for sin. Rings were attached to the altar so wooden poles could be slipped through to transport the altar.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did the people have to keep sacrificing animals on the altar for the forgiveness of their sins? *(None of the sacrifices could remove the sin of the people. They only point toward Jesus, whose sacrifice would be sufficient once and for all.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the perfect sacrifice of Jesus that has put an end to the need for an altar.





On the road to Emmaus.

Christ is the only one who would crush the head of the oppressor, Satan. Jesus defended the cause of the poor and delivered the children of the needy. No other man could endure as long as the sun and moon for all generations. Jesus is the one who will rule from sea to sea.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Could any other man match the description given in this passage? *(No. Only Jesus could possibly match this description.)*

How does this passage connect with the curse given to Satan after the temptation in the garden? *(God cursed Satan and prophesied that the offspring of the woman would one day crush Satan's head.)*

Look at vs. 4. Who is the oppressor? (Satan) Now read Gen. 3:15. How do these verses sound the same? *(They both talk about God crushing Satan)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the promised victory of Christ over Satan and His care for the poor and needy.

