

# Tabernacle Workshop

Welcome to the Tabernacle Workshop! Over the next 8 weeks, we're going to work together to learn about the Tabernacle through studying the Bible and building our own Tabernacle model.

**Week 1:** What is the Tabernacle?

**Week 2:** The Outer Court: The Bronze Altar

**Week 3:** The Outer Court: The Bronze Lavar

**Week 4:** The Holy Place: The Golden Lampstand

**Week 5:** The Holy Place: The Table of Showbread

**Week 6:** The Holy Place: The Altar of Incense

**Week 7:** The Holy Place: The Veil

**Week 8:** The Holy of Holies: The Ark of the Covenant

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**WEEK 1: What is the Tabernacle?****GETTING READY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Take a few minutes to look at the Tabernacle Poster and Box- do you see anything you already know about? Do you see anything you're interested in learning about?

**BIBLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following Bible passages together as a class:

Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9, 22, "The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them." ... <sup>8</sup>"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you. ... <sup>22</sup>"I will meet with you there and talk to you from above the atonement cover between the gold cherubim that hover over the Ark of the Covenant. From there I will give you my commands for the people of Israel."

**TALK ABOUT IT:** \_\_\_\_\_

As you talk as a class, underline or circle the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHO gave their things to build the Tabernacle?

HOW do we know that God designed the Tabernacle?

WHAT would God do at the Tabernacle?

CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

The Tabernacle doesn't exist anymore. Why do you think we're going to spend so much time learning about something that doesn't exist?

The Tabernacle is a \_\_\_\_\_ that helps us know God more.

ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

- Paint the fence posts that surround the courtyard brown.
- Draw a picture of the general layout of the courtyard and Tabernacle tent below.

**WEEK 2: The Outer Court: The Bronze Altar****GETTING READY:**

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The altar was a place where sacrifices were made for sin. Why did God require a sacrifice?

**BIBLE:**

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Read the following Bible passages together as a class:

Exodus 27:1-8 "Using acacia wood, construct a square altar 7 1/2 feet wide, 7 1/2 feet long, and 4 1/2 feet high. <sup>2</sup>Make horns for each of its four corners so that the horns and altar are all one piece. Overlay the altar with bronze. <sup>3</sup>Make ash buckets, shovels, basins, meat forks, and firepans, all of bronze. <sup>4</sup>Make a bronze grating for it, and attach four bronze rings at its four corners. <sup>5</sup>Install the grating halfway down the side of the altar, under the ledge. <sup>6</sup>For carrying the altar, make poles from acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. <sup>7</sup>Insert the poles through the rings on the two sides of the altar. <sup>8</sup>The altar must be hollow, made from planks. Build it just as you were shown on the mountain.

Leviticus 17:11 "for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible."

Ephesians 1:7 "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins."

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

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As you talk as a class, underline or circle the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHAT was the altar covered ("overlay") with? WHY do you think this was used?

HOW does the blood sacrificed on the altar work?

WHO gave blood so that we no longer have to sacrifice animals?

CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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The Israelites had to sacrifice animals because it cleansed them from their sin. They were *sinful* people, and they were worshipping a *holy* God. Today, people still sin, and God is still holy- but we don't sacrifice animals anymore. Instead, we recognize that Jesus' death on the cross was the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

- When during our worship at our church do we celebrate Jesus sacrifice for us?
  
- How do you feel when you think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for you?  
What is a way you could express that feeling to Jesus?

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the Bronze Altar and the Sacrificial Lambs
- Draw a picture of the Altar below:

**WEEK 3: The Outer Court: The Bronze Washbasin****GETTING READY:**

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Can you think of a Bible story where someone washes in water?

Water is used as a symbol throughout the Bible to represent life (like watering a plant, or getting a drink!) or cleanliness (like taking a shower!). Today we will see how God used water in worship at the Tabernacle.

**BIBLE:**

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Read the following Bible passages together as a class:

Exodus 30:17-21 “Then the Lord said to Moses, <sup>18</sup>“Make a bronze washbasin with a bronze stand. Place it between the Tabernacle and the altar, and fill it with water. <sup>19</sup>Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and feet there. <sup>20</sup>They must wash with water whenever they go into the Tabernacle to appear before the Lord and when they approach the altar to burn up their special gifts to the Lord—or they will die! <sup>21</sup>They must always wash their hands and feet, or they will die. This is a permanent law for Aaron and his descendants, to be observed from generation to generation.”

Titus 3:4-7 “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

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As you talk as a class, underline or circle the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHO would wash in the water?

WHEN would they wash in the water?

WHAT would happen if they didn't wash in the water?

CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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The priests would wash their hands and feet to make sure they were clean before entering the Tabernacle. The water cleansed the priests for worship. Today, we use water in our worship for baptism. At baptism, we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming into the life of a person (a baby, child, or grown-up!). Through the Holy Spirit, God's presence is always with us.

- Have you been baptized? Have you seen someone else baptized?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Where are some places that you're glad God is with you?

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the Bronze Washbasin and paint the tables for animal sacrifices brown.
- Draw a copy of the basin below:

## WEEK 4: The Holy Place: The Golden Lampstand

### GETTING READY:

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IMAGINE...**You're camping with your family and go out on a night hike in the woods. Suddenly, your flashlight battery runs out!** *How do you feel? What do you do?* **You walk for a little while and see a little flicker of light. As you go closer, there's a campfire. It's a family you met earlier that day, and their tents are right near yours. They are getting ready to head to bed, so they give you one of their flashlights to return in the morning.** *How do you feel? What do you say?*

Today we're going to talk about the light that God instructed the Israelites to use as part of their worship. We'll also talk about God's gift of light for us today.

### BIBLE:

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Read the following Bible passages together as a class:

Exodus 25:31-40 "Make a lampstand of pure, hammered gold. Make the entire lampstand and its decorations of one piece—the base, center stem, lamp cups, buds, and petals. <sup>32</sup>Make it with six branches going out from the center stem, three on each side. <sup>33</sup>Each of the six branches will have three lamp cups shaped like almond blossoms, complete with buds and petals. <sup>34</sup>Craft the center stem of the lampstand with four lamp cups shaped like almond blossoms, complete with buds and petals. <sup>35</sup>There will also be an almond bud beneath each pair of branches where the six branches extend from the center stem. <sup>36</sup>The almond buds and branches must all be of one piece with the center stem, and they must be hammered from pure gold. <sup>37</sup>Then make the seven lamps for the lampstand, and set them so they reflect their light forward. <sup>38</sup>The lamp snuffers and trays must also be made of pure gold. <sup>39</sup>You will need 75 pounds[a] of pure gold for the lampstand and its accessories."

John 8:12 "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ephesians 5:8 "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light."

### TALK ABOUT IT:

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As you talk as a class, underline or circle the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHAT was the lampstand made of?

WHERE was the lampstand located? (Look on the wall map).

WHO is the light of the world?

WHAT are we told to do in everyday life?



CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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Did you know that in our Sunday services, we keep a candle lit on the table at the front? It's to symbolize the light of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit with us. When you enter into worship each week, take a minute to look for the candle and thank God for giving us the light of Christ.

What are some ways you can share the light of Christ with others around you this week?

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the lampstand gold. Paint the columns that separate the Holy Place from the Courtyard.
- Draw the lampstand below:

**WEEK 5: The Holy Place: The Table of Show Bread****GETTING READY:**

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Share about a time when you felt really, really hungry. What did you dream about eating? Does being hungry change your attitude?

Everyone needs to eat! God designed our bodies to tell us when they need energy. When we're very hungry, it's hard to think of anything besides getting some food! Today in our lesson, we're going to see how God gave instructions about using food as part of worship.

**BIBLE:**

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Read the following Bible passages together as a class:

Exodus 37:10-14 "Then Bezalel made the table of acacia wood, 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high. <sup>11</sup>He overlaid it with pure gold and ran a gold molding around the edge. <sup>12</sup>He decorated it with a 3-inch border all around, and he ran a gold molding along the border. <sup>13</sup>Then he cast four gold rings for the table and attached them at the four corners next to the four legs. <sup>14</sup>The rings were attached near the border to hold the poles that were used to carry the table."

Leviticus 24:5-6, 9 "You must bake twelve flat loaves of bread from choice flour, using four quarts of flour for each loaf. <sup>6</sup>Place the bread before the Lord on the pure gold table, and arrange the loaves in two stacks, with six loaves in each stack. ... <sup>9</sup>The loaves of bread will belong to Aaron and his descendants, who must eat them in a sacred place, for they are most holy. It is the permanent right of the priests to claim this portion of the special gifts presented to the Lord."

John 6:51 [Jesus said] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

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As you talk as a class, underline or circle the parts of the text where you find the answer.

HOW do you know the table was special?

WHO was able to eat of the bread?

WHAT is Jesus' promise to those who eat of his bread?

CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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We remember Jesus' words about the bread when we eat the communion bread. It is a time to remember both that he *sacrificed* his own body for us and he *promises* to provide for our needs.

What are ways that you can show God thanks for his sacrifice and promise to care for you?

When you return to communion today, pray a "thank you" to God for his gifts to you.

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the table figurine gold and the 6 loaves of bread brown.
- Draw the table below. Draw 6 loaves of bread on each plate.

**WEEK 6: The Altar of Incense**GETTING READY:

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Did you know that God made our sense of smell to link to our memories? That's why a certain smell might remind you of a person or place that you haven't seen or thought about in a long time.

- Activity: Guessing scents

BIBLE:

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*Incense* is a collection of spices and plants that is burned to make a sweet scent. In the Tabernacle, God instructed the Israelite priests to burn incense at all times. The smell would remind them of God's sweet presence, and seeing the smoke would remind them that God is always with them.

Read the following Bible passages together as a class:

Exodus 40:1-3, 6-8 "Make an altar of acacia wood for burning incense. It is to be square, a cubit long and a cubit wide, and two cubits high—its horns of one piece with it. Overlay the top and all the sides and the horns with pure gold, and make a gold molding around it. ... Put the altar in front of the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law—before the atonement cover that is over the tablets of the covenant law—where I will meet with you. Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the Lord for the generations to come.

Psalms 141:2 "May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice."

TALK ABOUT IT:

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As you talk as a class, underline or **circle** the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHAT was the altar built out of?

WHERE did the altar sit?

WHAT happens behind the curtain?

HOW LONG was the incense supposed to burn on the altar?

CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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Some churches still burn incense as part of their worship gathering.

In the New Testament, Paul instructs the believers in Ephesus to “Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us. He was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)

Why do you think Jesus death for us is a sweet sacrifice to God?

In what ways (try to think specific!), can you seek to have your life be a sweet offering to God this week?

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the Altar of Incense gold.
- Draw the gold Altar below. Draw smoke coming off the top of it.

**WEEK 7: The Veil**GETTING READY:

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Game: Divide into 2 teams. Each team needs 1 piece of paper and a scribe. For 90 seconds, list all the rules at your home or school that are meant to keep you safe. For example, "don't play with matches". No making up imaginary rules! The team with the most \*unique\* rules (no repeats!) at the end, wins.

BIBLE:

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*Today in our study, we're talking about the Veil. The Veil was put in the Tabernacle between the Holy Place- where the Table of Show Bread, the Altar of Incense, and The Lampstand all stood. Even the priest had to stay out of the Most Holy Room (or Holy of Holies). The veil was there as a protection for the priest from the powerful holiness of God.*

Read the following Bible passages together:

Exodus 26:31-33 "Make a curtain out of blue, purple and bright red yarn and finely twisted linen. Have a skilled worker sew cherubim into the pattern.<sup>32</sup> Hang the curtain with gold hooks on four posts that are made out of acacia wood. Cover the posts with gold. Stand them on four silver bases.<sup>33</sup> Hang the curtain from the hooks. Place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Room from the Most Holy Room.

Leviticus 16:2 "The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to your brother Aaron. Tell him not to come into the Most Holy Room just anytime he wants to. Tell him not to come behind the curtain in front of the cover of the ark. The cover is the place where sin is paid for. If he comes behind the curtain, he will die. That is because I appear in the cloud over the cover."

TALK ABOUT IT:

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As you talk as a class, underline or **circle** the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHAT picture was sewn into the fabric of the veil?

WHAT two rooms did the veil separate?

WHY did Aaron (or another high priest) need to stay in front of the veil?

WHO appeared behind the veil?

CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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Talk about this section as a class. Take a few minutes to write your answers below:

In the New Testament, when Jesus died for us on the cross, it says that, "After Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he died. At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks split." (Matthew 27:50-51)

What do you think the curtain tore in two?

Now, since Jesus' sacrifice, you can pray to the Lord directly anytime. What are some of the times and places that you talk to the Lord? Is there a specific time each day this week that you can tell the Lord "thank you" for his grace and love?

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the columns that surround the Holy of Holies.
- Use the colors from the passage to draw a design below. We don't know exactly what it looked like, so you can be creative! What does the design included in the Tabernacle kit look like?

## WEEK 8: The Ark of the Covenant

### GETTING READY:

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Many people have a box or folder of special objects to save that remind them of good memories. Do you a special box? What kinds of things have you chosen to save?

### BIBLE:

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Read the following Bible passages together:

Exodus 25: 10-22 (edited) 10 "Have them make an ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ... Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

...And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. ... Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. 22 There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

Hebrews 9:4 "It also had the wooden chest called the ark of the covenant. The ark was covered with gold. It held the gold jar of manna. It held Aaron's walking stick that had budded. It also held the stone tablets. The words of the covenant were written on them."

### TALK ABOUT IT:

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As you talk as a class, underline or **circle** the parts of the text where you find the answer.

WHAT does God instruct the Israelites to cover the Ark with?

WHAT is the statue of on top of the Ark?

WHOSE presence is with the Ark?

WHICH objects does God instruct to put inside the Ark?



CONNECT TO OUR WORSHIP:

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Talk about this section as a class. Take a few minutes to write your answers below:

The Ark of the Covenant was where God's presence rested in Israel. Because Christ sent the Holy Spirit, God no longer restricts his presence to just one place. Instead, the Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of every believer.

What are ways that we can celebrate Christ's presence with us in worship every week?

ACTIVITY:

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- Paint the ark, stone tablets, jar of manna, and Aaron's rod.
- Draw the Ark of the Covenant below. Draw the stone tablets, jar of manna, and Aaron's rod, which were placed inside the Ark.