

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Sing, Sing, Sing, Happy Day, Made, Scandal of Grace, Hallelujah to the Lamb

WELCOME

Pre - Test. Draw what you recall the Tabernacle of God to look like. Label its parts and furniture.

WORD

EXODUS 25:8-9

⁸ Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. ⁹ According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.

God gave us the Tabernacle so we can pursue intimacy with Him, a picture of how we can approach a Holy God. It was initiated and designed by God (Exodus 25:9). He even provided the materials and furniture needed to build it from the gold, silver and clothing of the Egyptians (Exodus 12:35-36).

Everything in the Tabernacle points to Jesus, hinting at what is to come (Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 8:5). The Bible is one book. You will not understand the Old Testament until you connect it to the New Testament (Luke 24:25-27, 44).

The Outer Court of the Tabernacle has the Gate, the Altar and the Laver (see last week's 4Ws to review details). The next section is the Holy Place.

THE LAMPSTAND

It was made of one piece of solid gold with seven branches of lamps. Without the Lampstand, there would be no light inside the Tabernacle.

The Lamp represents Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12). He illuminates our life from within so that it shines before men (Matthew 5:14-16). People of the world are in the dark. They will not understand many things until they have Jesus in their life.

Be patient. They are blinded and cannot see (2 Corinthians 4:4). Without light, a blind person may hit you. So do not be angry, and instead pray for them (Romans 10:1-2). Only Jesus can open the eyes of the blind to let them see the Truth and obey His Word to light up their path (Psalm 119:105).

THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

Showbread literally means bread in the presence of God. It was built of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold, standing across the Lampstand.

Twelve loaves of bread were placed on it, eaten by the priests in the Holy Place, and replaced every Sabbath.

Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:33-35). We have an emptiness that can only be filled by Jesus. If we come to Him for sustenance, we will never hunger again. Intimacy with God requires coming to Jesus daily, depending on Him and delighting in His fellowship.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" The Bible is the written Word of God, our sustaining daily bread.

If you want to grow, then you need to read it (1 Peter 2:2). Do not be distracted by what the world has to offer. These "junk foods" will destroy our appetite for the bread of life. Daily immerse yourself in the Bible.

THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

This was the center of the Holy Place. It was the nearest piece of furniture to the Ark of the Covenant, though it was separated by a thick veil. The Altar was made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold with four horns at the four corners. The priests burned incense perfume in it.

Incense is often symbolic of prayer (Revelation 5:8; Psalm 141:2). Intimacy with God involves prayer. You are closest to the presence of God when you pray in the name of Jesus. Your prayer life is a thermometer, showing whether or not you are pursuing God.

The Altar of Incense points to Jesus' ministry of praying for us. Jesus is alive today and interceding for those who draw near Him. Not only did He die for us on the cross, but He is also always praying for us from heaven (Hebrews 7:25; 9:24). He is our only Mediator to God (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

WORD (cont'd)

THE VEIL

It was a thick veil that separated the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies (Exodus 26:33). This separation was for protection because a sinful man cannot approach a Holy God, or else he will die (Leviticus 16:2). Sin separates people from God (Isaiah 59:2). The key to intimacy with God is to learn how to deal with sin.

The priests could worship at the Holy Place, but only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year (Hebrews 9:6-7). Jesus, through His own blood, entered the Most Holy Place once and for all for our eternal redemption (vv.11-12). When Jesus died on the cross, His last words were, "It is finished." (John 19:30).

The Veil tore from top to bottom (Mark 15:37-38). Men could not easily tear it, but when Jesus died, He entered the Holy of Holies in the presence of God. The way is now open (Hebrews 10:19-20).

We can have the confidence to enter into the presence of God through Jesus Christ in full assurance of faith (v.22). God is pursuing us. He opened the way so we can enter into His presence.

Do you want to experience the fullness of joy in life? In the finished work of Christ, we have full assurance of faith to come in the presence of the Holy God. Only in His presence can be found fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8a).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

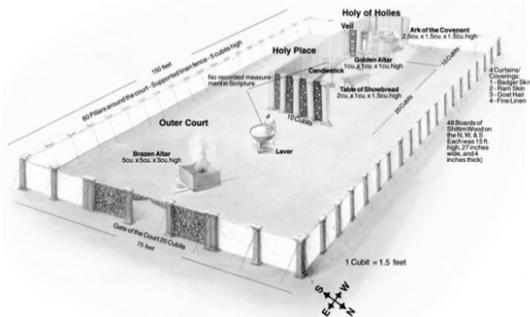
(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. The Tabernacle and Jesus.** According to the discussion points of Exodus 25, what have you learned about the Tabernacle pointing to Jesus?
- 2. Draw Near.** What gives you the confidence to come in God's presence? Describe your experience of being in the presence of God?
- 3. It is Finished.** What does it mean when Jesus said, "It is finished"? How does it impact your day to day life?

WORKS

THE TABERNACLE

This week, continue studying the Tabernacle of God. Connect it to who Jesus is and what He has done and what He is doing for us today. Write down what you are learning.



WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- New Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends