

"YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

The Tabernacle

Lesson 5

November 8

In **Exodus 20-23**, the LORD delivered the Ten Commandments, followed by a variety of laws outlining the way he expected his chosen people to live. In **Exodus 23**, he promised a successful conquest of Canaan. In **Exodus 24**, he confirmed his covenant with Israel. And in **Exodus 25**, he said something amazing:

“And let them make me a _____,
that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show
you concerning the pattern of the
_____, and of all its
furniture, so you shall make it.” (25:8-9)

In one way or another, 50 chapters of the Bible touch on the blueprint, construction, or service of the tabernacle. Nothing was left to Moses’ imagination or the speculation of the people. The LORD revealed exactly what he wanted, down to the smallest of details:

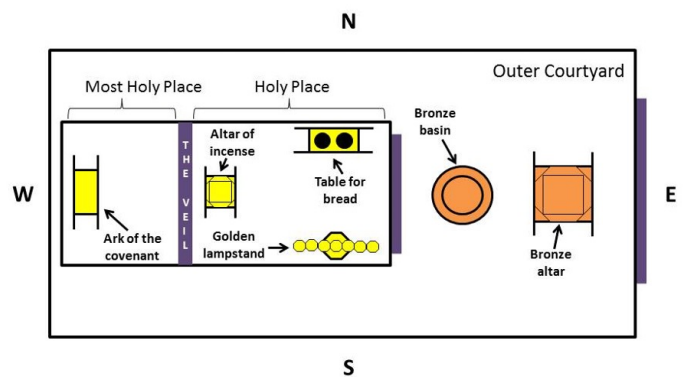
- The outer courtyard (**Exo 27:9-19; 38:9-20; 40:33**)
- The bronze _____ (**Exo 27:1-8; 38:1-7; 40:6, 10, 29**)
- The bronze basin (**Exo 30:17-21; 38:8; 40:7, 30-32**)
- The _____ for bread (**Exo 25:23-30; 37:10-16; 40:22-23**)
- The golden lampstand (**Exo 25:31-40; 37:17-24; 40:24-25**)
- The altar of _____ (**Exo 30:1-10, 34-38; 37:25-29; 40:26-27**)
- The veil (**Exo 26:31-33; 36:35-36**)
- The _____ of the covenant (**Exo 25:10-22; 37:1-9; 40:20-21**)

The LORD used a variety of phrases to describe it: “a sanctuary” (**Exo 25:8**), “the tent” (**26:36**), “the tent of meeting” (**29:42**), and “the tabernacle of the testimony” (**38:21**). **Leviticus 26:11-12** describes most clearly what the LORD wanted the tabernacle to be:

“I will make my _____ among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be _____ people.”

If there was one word to describe what the LORD wanted his people to think when they saw the tabernacle, surely it would be _____. “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy” (**Lev 19:2**). The tabernacle was a visible reminder—right in the middle of Israel’s camp—that they served a holy God, they were his people, and they were expected to be holy like him.

For almost 500 years the tabernacle would serve as a place for the LORD to dwell in the midst of his people and his people to serve and offer sacrifice to him.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- The LORD was more than capable of making a glorious sanctuary miraculously appear out of thin air. Why do you think he used a contribution “from every man whose heart moved him” (Exo 25:1-9) for the building materials of the tabernacle?

- Why do you think it was so important that the people of Israel make the tabernacle “exactly as I show you concerning the pattern” (Exo 25:9, 40)?

- In your own words, what does “holy” mean? How does Exodus 29:42-46 serve as a good summary of God’s expectations of holiness?

- Let’s think through together what it would have been like to move from outside the outer courtyard, closer and closer and closer to the ark of the covenant. What stands out to you? What did these things represent to the people of God?
 - A 7.5 foot tall curtain separating the camp of the people and the courtyard of the tabernacle?

 - The bronze altar?

 - The bronze basin?

 - The bread of the Presence?

 - The golden lampstand?

 - The altar of incense?

 - The veil?

 - The ark of the covenant?

- In Exodus 40:34-37, what happened once the tabernacle was built and set up? If you had been there and seen it happen with your own eyes, what sort of impression would it have made on you?