

HOOK

Camping time!

Optional props: A tent

How many of you have gone camping before? Where do you sleep in? *A tent*

(Get kids to share their stories or share your own stories)

E.g.

City Campers

Once, my son and husband wanted to spend the night in a tent. They decided to camp in our garden. So they put the tent up. But it was hot, so they put a stand fan outside to blow into the tent. There was a mosquito netting at the entrance of the tent, but they were a bit rough so the zipper broke. They pegged the netting up to keep the mosquitoes from coming in. But unfortunately the mosquitoes found their way in. A lot of them! And they were being bitten alive. Eventually, about 1am, they decided to pack everything up and move back into the house and sleep on their comfortable beds!

Frozen!

Once, we all went to camp in Janda Baik. It was a little spot by the river. There was a wooden shelter there, so we thought we didn't really need a tent! We could just put our sleeping bags under the shelter to sleep. But we didn't realise that it got really, really cold at night. And we were almost frozen solid lying there in the shelter. Brrrrr ...

STORY: EXODUS: TABERNACLE (Exodus 25-27)

When the Israelites were travelling in the desert, God told them to build a tent for Him, so that He could stay with them and they could worship Him in it.

Exodus 25:8-9 *"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.*

Can you imagine? The God of the whole universe wants to live among man? In a tent?

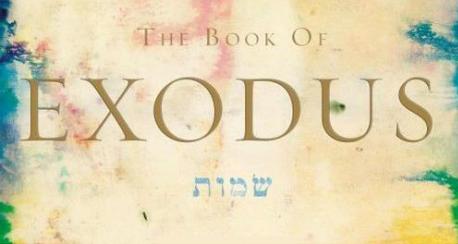
God gave very specific instructions about how to build the tabernacle and what to put in it.

Tabernacle



3 main areas:

- i. Outer Court
- ii. Holy Place
- iii. Holy of Holies



i. Outer Court:

a. Gate:

- Only 1 gate on the east end
- Screens made with blue, purple and scarlet twisted linen

b. Brazen altar:

- Where animals are burnt as sacrifice for sins

c. Bronze laver (bowl)

- For the priests to wash themselves before entering the Holy Place

ii. Holy Place:

a. Menorah:

- Golden lampstand with 7 lamps that burnt continuously
- Only source of light in the Holy Place

b. Table of Showbread:

- Table with 12 breads (like *roti canai*) arranged in 2 rows of 6 breads each
- Showbread: "Bread of God's presence"

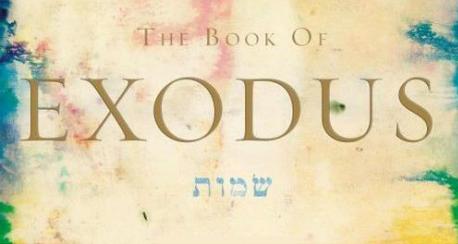
c. Altar of Incense:

- Made of wood and gold
- Blood from sacrifices sprinkled on the horns
- Incense burnt on it while the priest prayed for the people of Israel

iii. Holy of Holies:

a. Ark of the Covenant

More on this next week



LESSON

God loves to be with His people

God loves us. He wants to spend time with us. He doesn't want to be a far off and distant God.

When the Israelites were in the desert, He was willing to stay in a tent so He could be wherever they went.

Today, God still wants to live among us.

Emmanuel, God with us

When Jesus came to earth, one of His names was Emmanuel, "God with us".

Jesus, the God of heaven and earth, came to stay in a tent — a physical human body — so He could live among us.

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,*

Jesus is our Tabernacle — God lives in us forever

In fact, the Bible calls Jesus our Perfect Tabernacle. The tabernacle of Moses was just a picture of the real Tabernacle, Jesus, through whom we can be with God forever.

Heb 9:11 *But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.*

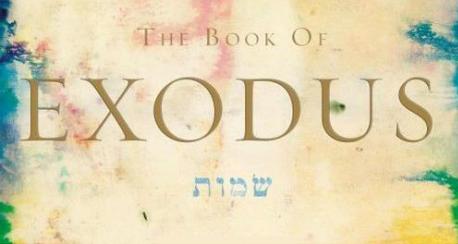
When we believe in Jesus, we have this Perfect Tabernacle, Jesus, in our hearts.

And that's how the God's Holy Spirit can live in us forever and ever.

Memory Verse

2 Cor 6:16 *For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:*

"I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."



ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Game: Find the furniture of the Tabernacle

Prepare cut-outs (with double-sided tape behind them) of the various furniture (e.g. Bronze altar, candlestick etc) as per attachment below. Hide the pieces around the room beforehand.

Prepare a printout of the Tabernacle layout (or show on the screen).

Get the kids to hunt for the furniture and stick on the correct positions of the Tabernacle (Outer Court, Holy Place, Holy of Holies).

Variations for older classes:

- Prepare 2 sets and divide kids into 2 groups and see which group can complete the layout faster
- Include pieces of paper containing parts of the memory verse for the kids to assemble

Close in prayer. Thank you Jesus that you live with us forever!

Invite those who want Jesus to tabernacle/live in their hearts forever to pray to accept Him.



ARK OF THE COVENANT



ALTAR OF INCENSE

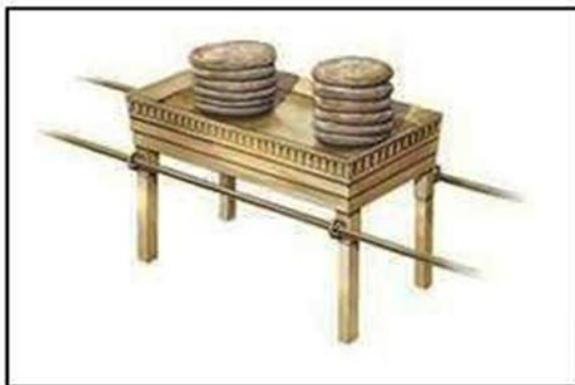


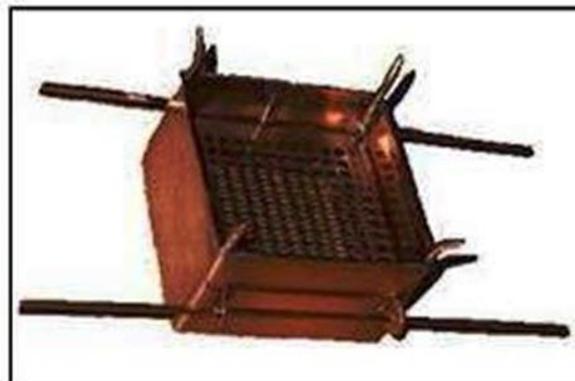
TABLE OF SHOWBREAD



GOLDEN LAMPSTAND



BRONZE LAVER



ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERINGS

Tabernacle

