

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how God wanted to live among the Israelites, even when they were camping through the desert.

So He told Moses to build a big tent for him, called a tabernacle!

Get the kids to identify the various furniture in the tabernacle and state which section it belongs to.

Tabernacle



STORY: EXODUS: TABERNACLE (Exodus 25)

Suggestion: Prepare a small box, gold wrapping paper, cut-outs of 10 commandments, bottle of cotton wool, rods etc. As you teach the lesson, get the kids to help create an “Ark of the Covenant” replica. Depending on age or time, you may do the bulk of the work earlier and just point out the different parts as you teach.

There are 3 sections to the tabernacle — the outer courts, Holy Place and Holy of Holies.

The priests could enter the Holy Place, but only the High Priest (Aaron, Moses’ brother) could enter the Holy of Holies once a year.

“But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.” Hebrews 9:7

What was in the Holy of Holies?

The Ark of the Covenant

Too holy to touch

God told Moses to make the Ark of the Covenant out of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold, inside and out.

It was to be carried by poles at the sides of the ark only by the Levites — too holy to be touched!



What’s inside the Ark?

God told Moses to put in the 10 Commandments tablets that He was going to give the Israelites.

Later on, Moses added in Aaron’s rod that budded and a pot of manna.

→ These are reminders of the Israelites’ **SIN** (e.g. the golden calf, their constant complaining) and how they couldn’t keep God’s perfect law perfectly.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT EXODUS 25:10-22

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TABLETS OF COVENANT LAW (16, 21-22)

The two stone tablets with the ten commandments were placed inside the ark. These tablets were inscribed on both sides, front and back by 'the finger of God' (see also 20:12; 31:18; 32:15-16; 34:1, 4, 28).



MEETING WITH GOD (22)

Above the atonement cover and between the cherubim, God would meet with Moses and give him commands for Israel.

ATONEMENT COVER (17, 22)

Length = 2.5 cubits (3 3/4 ft / 1.1 m)
Width = 1.5 cubits (2 1/4 ft / 0.68 m)
The cover was made of pure gold.

CHERUBIM (19-20, 21)

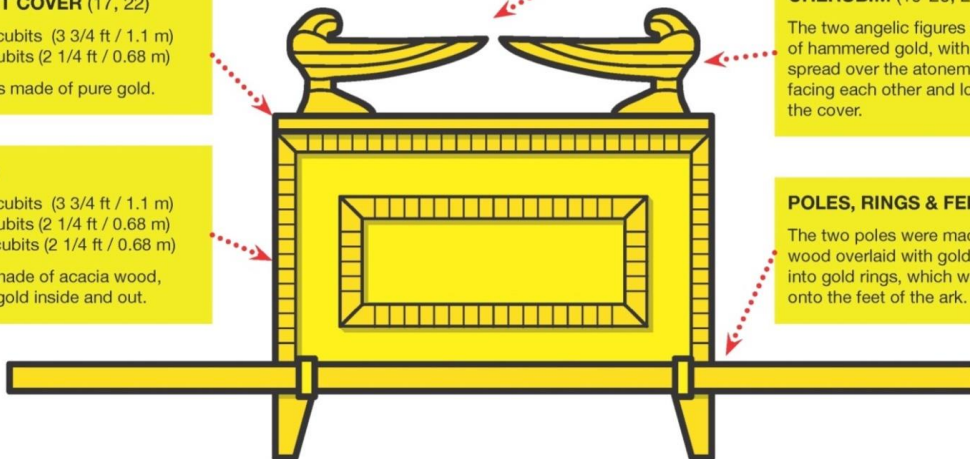
The two angelic figures were made of hammered gold, with their wings spread over the atonement cover, facing each other and looking toward the cover.

ARK (10-11)

Length = 2.5 cubits (3 3/4 ft / 1.1 m)
Width = 1.5 cubits (2 1/4 ft / 0.68 m)
Height = 1.5 cubits (2 1/4 ft / 0.68 m)
The ark was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold inside and out.

POLES, RINGS & FEET (12-15)

The two poles were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold and inserted into gold rings, which were fastened onto the feet of the ark.



Atonement Cover/Mercy Seat:

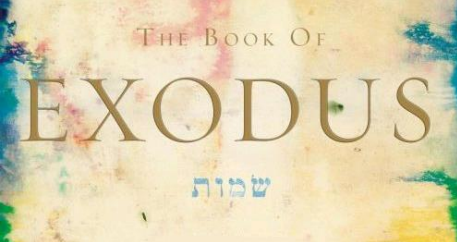
Covering the top of the ark is a golden cover, called the Mercy Seat.

There are 2 cherubims on both ends of the cover, facing each other, with wings spread upward overshadowing the cover.

The presence of God rested between the cherubims — no one allowed to look directly on the Atonement Cover

The High Priest sprinkles sacrificial blood on the Atonement Cover on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16:11-17) so that God will not punish the people for their sins. No one could enter the Holy of Holies without the shedding of blood. (Heb 9:7)

Beautiful picture of God's mercy and forgiveness over man's rebellion and sin.



LESSON

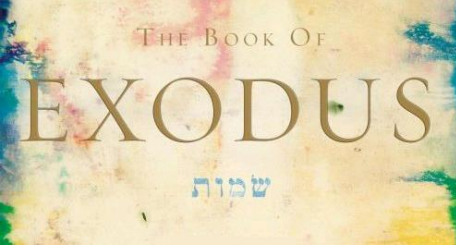
Jesus our Tabernacle

God planned the tabernacle to the smallest detail because each part — every furniture, ritual and sacrifice — was a picture of what His son, Jesus will do to save the world from sin.

E.g.

Brazen altar	Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for sins
Bronze laver	Jesus washes us clean (Heb 10:22) so we can enter God's presence boldly and with confidence.
Menorrah	Jesus is the light of the world (John 1:9). When we follow Him, we will "never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". (John 8:12)
Table of Showbread	Before He died, Jesus took bread, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying "Take and eat; this is my body." (Matt 26:26). On the cross, Jesus' body was broken so that you and I can be made whole.
Altar of Incense	Jesus is a pleasing offering; He intercedes for us daily at the right hand of God.
Ark of the Covenant (Mercy Seat)	Jesus stands between a holy God and sinful man. The High Priest sprinkled animal blood on mercy seat to cover the sins of the Israelites. Christ's blood was shed to wash away the sins of the entire world. Romans 3:23-25 <i>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,</i> ²⁴ <i>and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.</i> ²⁵ God presented Christ as a <u>sacrifice of atonement</u> (mercy seat), through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

Heb 9:11-12 *But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.*



ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Jesus' Blood Covers my Sin

Prepare a mock Ark of the Covenant (or use the one the kids created during the lesson).

Hand out papers for the kids to write down what are some of the sins they committed over the past week/month/year.

Then get them to put their "sins" into the Ark. And put the cover (Mercy Seat) over it.

Explain:

None of us can keep God's perfect law. Breaking God's law is sin. The Ark is like a coffin for our sins. When we look into the Ark, we see all our sins and failures.

The High Priest would come in to sprinkle animal blood on the top of the Ark (the Mercy Seat) to cover the sin of the people. (can illustrate by sprinkling some red dye/paint on the top of the ark)

When Jesus died on the cross, His blood covers all our sins and washes them clean. When God looks down, He no longer sees our sins, but the blood of the Perfect Sacrifice, Jesus.

Thank you Jesus for taking away our sin!

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

Invite those who want Jesus to take away their sin to ask Him into their hearts.