

Women in the Word
Introduction to the Tabernacle

Exodus 25:1-9 // September 7, 2017

THE
BLUEPRINT
GOD'S HOME ON EARTH

1. What was the most memorable part of your summer? Did you take any pictures to help you remember?
2. This semester we are studying the Tabernacle in Exodus. What comes to mind when you hear the word “tabernacle”?
3. Have you ever studied the Tabernacle? If so, what do you remember most about that study?
4. The word “tabernacle” means dwelling, or to dwell. Read Exodus 25:8. What does God say is the purpose of the Tabernacle or sanctuary that Moses and the Israelites would build?

What is your first response to that amazing statement?

5. Read Exodus 25:2-7 and record all the different materials that would be used in building the Tabernacle.
6. How will Moses know how to build the Tabernacle? Read Exodus 25:1, 9, 40 and 26:30.
7. Have you ever seen blueprints for a house, or a sewing pattern for a dress, skirt, blouse or even instructions to put something together? How did the blueprint, sewing pattern or instructions make a difference in the finished product?

In what ways do you see the Bible, God’s Word, as a blueprint or instructions on how to live our lives? Can you give a personal example of how following God’s Word has built a better life?

Women in the Word
Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9 // September 14, 2017

THE
BLUEPRINT
GOD'S HOME ON EARTH

1. There are times in our lives when we experience the presence of God in special ways. Describe a time or two when you were very aware of God's presence.

What do we know to be true regarding God's presence in our lives? Read John 14:23 and 1 Corinthians 3:16.

How was God's eternal presence made possible in your life? Read Ephesians 2:12-13.

2. Last week we studied God's intent to dwell in the midst of His children, Israel. Israel was instructed to build a Tabernacle according to His plans. In Exodus 25:10-15 we learn about the most important structure that would be in the Tabernacle. Everything in the Tabernacle pointed to the ark of the covenant. It was located in the area called the Holy of Holies, or the Most Holy Place. The ark was a chest about 45 inches long, 27 inches wide and 27 inches high. Summarize what else we learn about it in these verses.
3. Read Exodus 25:16 along with Deuteronomy 10:1-5 and explain what God instructed Moses to put into the ark.

In Hebrews 9:4-5 we discover two more items included in this sacred chest. What are they?

Read Exodus 16:31-36; 28:1 and Numbers 17:1-11 to understand God's provision of manna and His priestly calling for the tribe of Levi which some Israelites had resented. How might the preserving of these items have encouraged the Israelites as they journeyed with the ark?

Tablets with Ten Commandments –

Urn of manna –

Aaron's rod that budded –

4. The covering or lid of the ark of the covenant is described in Exodus 25:17-22. Read these verses. What does God call this covering of the ark and what insight can we glean about God's purpose for this special covering when considering its name?

How have you been "covered" with God's mercies this week?

5. The two cherubim were important to the mercy seat. What do we learn about God's incredible plan involving the golden cherubim from verses 21-22?

What can we learn about these specific angelic beings in these following passages? What do they teach us about God?

Genesis 3:24 –

2 Samuel 6:2 –

Ezekiel 10:3-5 –

6. The ark of the covenant was a place of God's presence. He desired to dwell with man. How did God display this same desire through His Son Jesus Christ? Read John 1:14.
7. The Day of Atonement was a day when a high priest atoned for the sins of Israel through the sacrificial blood of animals. Read Leviticus 16:11-16, 29-30 for insight. In a sentence, explain what was accomplished at the mercy seat.

Why did Aaron the high priest first present an offering for himself?

How often must the high priest enter the Holy of Holies and atone for the sins of Israel?

8. Jesus Christ is our perfect high priest. Read these verses and explain why.

Hebrews 4:14-16 –

Hebrews 7:23-25 –

Hebrews 9:11-12 –

9. Jesus is also our perfect sacrifice. How did John the Baptist introduce Jesus to the world in John 1:29?

Romans 5:6-9 illuminates our need and God's provision. Read this verse and explain.

According to this verse, what is the result of being justified by Christ's blood?

10. The earthly "holy place" in the Tabernacle was only a type of the heavenly abode of God. How does Hebrews 9:24-28 explain this reality?

11. In Exodus 37:1-9 we see that Israel followed God's blueprint and built the ark of the covenant. God has a blueprint for your life as well. What words come to mind when considering the holy place where you met your own High Priest and received forgiveness through His sacrifice?

12. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Table of Showbread and
Golden Lampstand

THE
BLUEPRINT
GOD'S HOME ON EARTH

Exodus 25:23-40; 27:20-21 & 37:10-24 // September 21, 2017

1. If we were to move from the Holy of Holies into the Holy Place and glance around the room, we would see the Golden Lampstand on the south wall, which illuminated the Table of Showbread on the north wall. Think about a table in your home and describe the activities that occur around that table.

2. Read Exodus 25:23-30 and record the design details of the Table of Showbread.

According to verse 29, what is to be placed on the Table of Showbread?

Reread verse 30. How often was the showbread (also known as the bread of the Presence) to be placed on the table?

3. Read Leviticus 24:5-9. The Levitical priests were placed in charge of the showbread. How many loaves of bread were they instructed to make and how was it to be made?

How were the loaves of bread to be arranged on the table?

When was the bread replaced?

What were they instructed to do with the old bread?

4. How were the 12 loaves of bread placed on the table symbolic to the Israelites? Refer to Genesis 49:28 for insight.

According to John 6:35, what does bread represent to the New Testament Christians?

5. The 12 loaves of bread, representing the 12 tribes of Israel, were placed on the Table of Showbread in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle, the place where God dwelled with His people. The word “table” is used throughout the Bible. Read the following portions of Scripture and record what is happening at these tables.

Mark 14:12-18

John 12:1-2

6. Read Exodus 25:31-40. What material was used to make the Lampstand? How does this differ from the material used to make the Table of the Showbread?

Describe the details of the Lampstand design.

The almond blossom and buds were emulated in the design of the Lampstand. Read Numbers 17:7-8 and record the details of another reference to the almond blossom in the Old Testament.

7. The primary root of the Hebrew word for almond means to be watchful, alert and sleepless. Knowing this, why do you think God instructed them to emulate the almond blossoms in the Lampstand design? Refer to Psalm 121:4 and Proverbs 15:3 for insight.

8. Read Exodus 27:20-21. What kind of oil was to be used and who would provide it?

Who was in charge of caring for the Lampstand?

9. References to oil are used throughout the Bible. One way it was used was to anoint someone who had been called or set apart for God's purposes. What else could the oil represent? Refer to Acts 10:38 for insight.

What do the following portions of Scripture say about the Holy Spirit's role in helping us understand God's Word? John 14:25-26; John 16:13 and Ephesians 1:16-18.

Knowing this, explain in your own words the significance of the oil being maintained so the lamps would always be shining light in the Holy Place.

10. The Lampstand would have been the only light in the Holy Place. The light coming from the Lampstand not only allowed the Israelites to worship and communion with God, it also reminded them of God's watchful presence over them. Later, God sent His only Son Jesus Christ to shine His light into a dark world. What does Matthew 5:14-16 tell us about our calling as a follower of Christ?

11. The Israelites had been given the instructions on how to build the Table of Showbread and the Golden Lampstand in Exodus 25:23-40. Now read Exodus 37:10-23 to see how Bezalel and Oholiab carried out those instructions. In a few words, describe how Bezalel and Oholiab responded to God's instructions.

How does our obedience to God's Word affect our relationship with Him? Look at John 14:15 and 1 John 2:3-6 for insight.

12. As you think back on this lesson, what other truths about God's divine nature do you see reflected in these two furnishings in the Holy Place?

13. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Structure of the Tabernacle

Exodus 26:1-37; 36:8-38 // September 28, 2017

THE
BLUEPRINT
GOD'S HOME ON EARTH

1. Tents are used in many different ways. There are wedding tents, circus tents, camping tents and play tents, as well as others. What is the most interesting tent you have ever seen? Describe it.
2. In review, read Exodus 25:8 and record the purpose of the Tabernacle.

Although many details are given in these chapters in Exodus on the Tabernacle, how did the Israelites know exactly how to erect and furnish the Tabernacle? See Exodus 25:9 and 26:30.

3. In chapter 26 of Exodus, God gives Moses the blueprint for the moveable walls, coverings and curtains, which make up the structure of the Tabernacle. Read Exodus 26:15-25. From what were the frames or boards made?

A cubit is about 1.5 feet. Using this measurement, how long was each frame in feet? What was the width or breadth of each frame in feet?

Each frame had two projections or tenons at the bottom of the frame. Each projection fit into a separate base so each frame had two bases. What material was used to make the 96 bases?

Why were these bases important considering the terrain on which the Tabernacle would be erected?

4. Read Exodus 26:26-29. How many acacia wood crossbars were made to go through the gold rings on the frames? What was the purpose of these crossbars?

With what were the frames/boards and crossbars overlaid?

Contemplate verses 15-30. What words come to mind?

What do these verses teach you about the character of God?

5. Draped over the frames were four layers of curtains or coverings that made a ceiling and roof and hung to the ground on the sides to form a tent. Read Exodus 26:1-6. The first inside layer made a beautiful ceiling and side walls. From a spiritual viewpoint, what do the colors of yarn and linen represent to you?

What were woven into this curtain that added to its beauty? Where else have we seen them? See Exodus 25:19-20.

What might they represent according to these verses? Read Isaiah 37:16 and Hebrews 9:5 for more insight.

6. Read Exodus 26:7-13. Compare and contrast the second layer of curtains with the first layer.

What was one purpose for a goat seen in Leviticus 1:10?

7. In Exodus 26:14, God gives Moses the description of the third layer of covering and the fourth and final covering over the Tabernacle. This fourth layer was made of animal hide and would be visible to the people outside the Tabernacle. Describe the third layer of covering.

What might the second and third layers of covering represent? Read Leviticus 6:6-7; Hebrews 9:22 and John 1:29.

8. A curtain or veil was to hang in the Tabernacle separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, which is also called the Holy of Holies. Read Exodus 26:31-35 and describe the veil. What is the object behind the veil in the Most Holy Place? Whose presence dwelt there?

According to Hebrews 10:19-22, what does the veil or curtain represent? See verse 20.

What happened to the veil in the temple when Jesus was crucified? Read Matthew 27:50-51.

How does this visual picture give you a deeper understanding of your salvation when considering the presence of God rested behind the veil in the Holy of Holies?

9. In Exodus 26:36-37, read the description of the final curtain, which is the door to the entrance of the Tabernacle. What is not included on this fabric that was woven on the inner veil?
10. In Exodus 36:8-38, the builders, artisans, weavers and seamstresses are carrying out the blueprint instructions. As you read these verses, picture yourself outside the erected Tabernacle structure. How does it look?

Now imagine yourself stepping through the outside curtain into the Holy Place! As you look around, what words would you use to describe the interior of the Tabernacle?

What words do the psalmists use to describe God and His Tabernacle or sanctuary in the following Psalms? Psalm 63:2; 84:1; 96:6 and 150:1.

How has this study of the Tabernacle added to your desire to worship and praise God?

11. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Altar of Incense

Exodus 30:1-10, 34-38; 37:25-29 // October 5, 2017

THE
BLUEPRINT
GOD'S HOME ON EARTH

1. As we continue looking at God's blueprint for the Tabernacle, review your Tabernacle diagram and images. Which furnishings have we already studied and where were they located?

2. Now read Exodus 30:1-5. Which Tabernacle furnishing does God design in these verses?

Record the following from His instructions:

Dimensions:

Primary building material:

Overlay material:

Design elements:

3. Compare this altar with the other furnishings we have studied. What is similar? What is different?

4. In Exodus 30:6-10, God gives Moses additional instructions for the Altar of Incense. Where is it placed in the Tabernacle?

Why would this location be significant?

5. Who is in charge of tending this altar according to verse 7?

Describe his responsibilities.

What specific restrictions are given to him in verse 9?

6. Exodus 30:10 describes a once a year occurrence. Record what happens on that day.

Define the word “atonement.”

Read Leviticus 16:30, 32-34 and 17:11. What purpose is served by this once a year ritual?

7. How do we, as New Testament believers, become clean before God from all our sins? Read 1 John 1:7-9 and Hebrews 9:13-14.

8. Read Exodus 30:34-38. Describe the incense that is burned daily on the altar.

What warning accompanies the compounding instructions?

Aaron is given a warning and restrictions in Exodus 30:9. How seriously should these be taken? Read Leviticus 10:1-3.

9. When Aaron's sons ignored God's instructions concerning the Altar of Incense, it resulted in their death. What do you learn about God as you read their story? Read 1 Samuel 15:22 and Job 36:11-12.

List some of the consequences we experience when we ignore God's precepts and instructions.

Read Exodus 37:25-29. As the craftsman appointed by God constructs the altar and makes the incense, what do you observe about his obedience?

10. Read Psalm 141:2 and Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4. What significant part of our relationship with God is represented by incense in these Scriptures?

What are the people doing as the priest burns incense in Luke 1:8-10?

11. The incense that was burned daily in the Tabernacle was made from specific, God ordained ingredients. What are some of the "ingredients" of prayer according to 1 Timothy 2:1; Philippians 4:6 and Matthew 6:9-13?

What important lessons can we glean about prayer as we picture incense constantly burning on the Altar of Incense, next to the Holy of Holies?

12. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.

Women in the Word
Courtyard of the Tabernacle

Exodus 27:9-19; 38:9-20 // October 12, 2017

THE
BLUEPRINT
GOD'S HOME ON EARTH

1. Think of a beautiful home you've seen behind a wall or a fence. What purpose or function did the wall serve? Would you rather have been on the inside or the outside of that wall? Why?

2. God has completed His instructions for the construction of the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Read Exodus 27:9-20. God is now giving instructions for the Courtyard of the Tabernacle. What is your first impression of these plans?

List all of the materials that would be used for construction.

How might the value of each of these materials contribute to Israel's understanding of God?

What visible cues in your world prompt you to worship God or understand His attributes more fully? How does this contribute to your daily walk with God?

3. What were the dimensions of the courtyard in feet? (As a reminder, a cubit is about 1.5 feet.) See Exodus 27:9, 11-13.

4. According to Exodus 27:9-12, how many pillars were to be used to hold the curtains on the north and south sides? The east and west sides?

According to verse 18, how tall would the walls of the courtyard be in feet?

5. Inside of the courtyard was the Tabernacle tent. Read Exodus 26:16 and record how tall it was.

Now imagine you are standing outside of the courtyard. What might you be able to see and hear happening on the inside of those curtained walls? What might those sights and sounds cause you to think about as you go about your daily life?

6. The courtyard walls created clear separation between the dwelling place of Holy God and the camp. Read Exodus 19:9-23. Here on Mount Sinai, God also set boundaries between Himself and His people. According to verse 12, from what is God protecting His people?

Why do you think the consequence for ascending Mount Sinai would be so severe?

How might the Tabernacle courtyard walls, along with the white linen they were made from, contribute to the people's understanding of God's holiness?

7. On the east side of the courtyard was the entrance into the courtyard. Read Exodus 27:16 carefully and record the ways the screen, or doorway, looked different from the linen curtains from which the rest of the courtyard walls were made.

Imagine the rising morning sun reflecting off that beautiful doorway. How would looking at the colors and the fabric itself help prepare you to worship God once inside the courtyard?

8. How wide was the doorway? Besides worshippers, what was brought through this doorway? See Leviticus 1:1-17. What phrase is repeated in verses 9, 13 and 17 that describes these offerings? (We will study the Altar of Burnt Offering next week.)

9. In the same way that the gate was the one and only way to gain access to the place where God's presence dwelt, Jesus is the one and only way by which we can have fellowship with God. Read the following verses and write out a brief praise based on what Christ has done for us: John 10:7-9; 14:6; 1 Peter 2:24 and 1 John 4:10.

10. Read Numbers 2:1-2. What were each of the camps of Israel to face? What do you think was the purpose behind this command?

Continue reading Numbers 2:3-4. Which tribe was to encamp on the east side of the courtyard, across from the entrance gate? Who would later be born of this tribe? See Matthew 1:1-3, 16.

11. Once again, read Exodus 27:9-19 along with Exodus 38:9-20. How closely were God's instructions followed in the building of the courtyard?

12. As we think of the walls and the gate of the Tabernacle Courtyard, what boundaries has God given in His Word that have provided protection for you? Please share an example.

13. Write out your personal prayer request in a few words to share with your small group.