




MAYFAIRKIDS

JESUS IS THE MEDIATOR

“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 12, November 5



JESUS IS THE TABERNACLE

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

Back in the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with their creator. Because they were sinless, they were able to enjoy God's Presence in a way that's hard to wrap our minds around. But now God's people were tainted with sin. How could a perfect God dwell among them? Moses knew the people needed God's Presence so much that he begged for it, and God knew it too. That's why he already had a plan in place. God wanted the people to make a sanctuary, a tabernacle, for him to dwell in. But it had to be a certain way. The book of Hebrews tells us that

Moses's tabernacle was a copy and shadow of what is in heaven, and it takes many, many chapters in Exodus for Moses to learn how to make it. This tent in the desert was really important!

The tabernacle had three major parts: the courtyard, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. The courtyard was the area that was visible and accessible to most people. It had two important parts to it: the altar and the basin. The altar was very important, because it was how the people made sacrifices to the Lord—to thank him, to worship him, and to atone for their sins. Many

animals were burned on this altar, including young bulls, goats, lambs, pigeons, and doves. Behind the altar was the bronze basin, where the priests would wash their hands and feet to cleanse themselves.

Beyond the altar and the basin was the tent itself. The first room inside the tent was the Holy Place. To the right was the table of the bread of the Presence, with twelve loaves of bread for the twelve tribes of Israel. To the left was the lampstand, beautifully hammered from one piece of gold in the shape of an almond tree, giving light to the room. At the far end was the altar of incense. It burned sweet-smelling spices, with smoke rising in front of the curtain, representing the prayers of God's people rising up to him.

The curtain itself was decorated with cherubim, and it shielded, or veiled, the priests from the next room, the Most Holy Place, or the Holy of Holies, where God's Presence was. This room was shaped like a cube, and the high priest was only allowed to enter the room once a year on the Day of Atonement. In this room there was only one thing: the ark of the covenant, also known as the ark of the testimony.

Imagine the people's excitement when the tabernacle was finished. They had been a part of it! They had brought their precious metals and stones. They had used their talents to sew priestly garments and hammer beautiful things from gold. They had watched as it all came

together. And now God's Presence was going to come fill it as he had promised! A cloud settled on the tent, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. The cloud was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night. When the cloud moved, the people would set out, so God's Presence would always be with them.

The book of John tells us that Jesus came to earth to dwell, or "tabernacle," among us (John 1:14). Much like the tabernacle of the Old Testament, Jesus would be God's Presence, living and moving among his people. He would be our access to God, our means of atonement, and our tangible, direct link to God. After all, he's God himself! Jesus explained this when he was in the temple (which had replaced the tabernacle). He said to the teachers, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (John 2:19). In other words, he was saying, "I am the temple! I am God's Presence!" He knew they would kill him, but he also knew he would rise three days later. The precious pieces of the tabernacle and temple would no longer be needed to enjoy God's Presence or make atonement, because Jesus himself would be the meeting place between God and his people.

Today we not only have Jesus, but we also have the gift of the Holy Spirit that God sent at Pentecost. We can enjoy the Presence of God in our lives at all times thanks to what Jesus accomplished on the cross and in our hearts and lives. Thank God today for his Presence. We so desperately need it!



REFLECT

1. How was God present with his people in the desert?
2. How is he present with us today?
3. What were the different pieces of the tabernacle, and what were they used for?
4. What happened to the curtain when Jesus died on the cross (Matthew 27:51)? What was the significance of this?
5. Revelation 21 tells us about the New Jerusalem. What is the shape of it (see verse 16)? Is there a tabernacle or temple? Why or why not (verse 22)?

BIBLE REFERENCE EXODUS 25:1-9; 40:34-38

KEY VERSE JOHN 1:14