

The Tabernacle: Additional Thoughts

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

This lesson gathers additional observations from the Tabernacle series rather than developing one single theme. It proposes that the twelve loaves may picture Israel's twelve tribes resting at God's table. The Torah gives the number of loaves but does not explicitly explain that symbolism.

The temporary tent and the shelters of Sukkot prompt reflection on our mortal lives and joy amid difficulty. The gold-covered frame and silver bases prompt a different application: God's instruction is treasure to be learned and practiced, not merely information to collect.

The mercy seat directs attention to atonement and God's mercy. The high priest brought blood before it on the Day of Atonement. The teaching emphasizes that a ritual does not mechanically compel forgiveness; our hope rests in YHWH's mercy.

Yeshua's teaching about the eye as the lamp of the body becomes an examination of envy, greed, and generosity. A lamp fulfills its purpose by giving light. Likewise, resources are to serve God and people rather than become our master.

The curtains' connection with priestly clothing becomes an encouragement to persevere in service. The lesson also joins Jeremiah's hope beyond the Ark with Revelation's hope of direct fellowship with God. These are interpretive connections; the dating of Hebrews and detailed prophetic sequences need separate support.

Finally, eating at God's table is connected with Yeshua's example of serving and with the promised marriage supper. As recipients of grace, we can practice generous hospitality and care for those unable to repay us. These acts express love and faith rather than buy a place at the table.

Summary points

- The lesson offers several additional observations rather than one controlling theme.
- The twelve-loaf interpretation is proposed, not explicitly explained in Leviticus.
- Sukkot recalls Israel's wilderness dwellings.
- God's instruction is more desirable than material treasure.
- The mercy seat is central to the Day of Atonement ritual.
- Mercy depends on God rather than a mechanical ritual.
- A healthy use of wealth serves God and people.
- We are encouraged to persevere in doing good.
- Future hope sustains faithful service amid loss.

- Receiving God's gifts should lead to generous hospitality.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The teaching proposes that the twelve loaves may symbolize the twelve _____ of Israel.
2. Sukkot recalls Israel's journey through the _____.
3. The Tabernacle's wooden frame was overlaid with _____.
4. The frame's boards rested on bases made of _____.
5. The solid-gold cover of the Ark was called the mercy _____.
6. Yeshua says we cannot serve both God and _____.

Challenging

1. Psalm 19 says God's rules are more desirable than _____.
2. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest sprinkled _____ before the mercy seat.
3. Mercy triumphs over _____.
4. The lesson connects an evil eye with greed and _____.
5. Galatians encourages us not to grow weary of doing _____.
6. Luke 14 describes repayment at the _____ of the just.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How can we evaluate the suggested meaning of the twelve loaves without overstating it?

2. What practical response does the comparison between precious materials and God's word invite?

3. What does the mercy-seat discussion teach about forgiveness?

4. How does the healthy-eye illustration challenge the way we use resources?

5. How can the clothing and future-hope sections encourage us during difficulty?

6. How does Yeshua's table connect receiving grace with hospitality?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. tribes

Additional Thoughts, Twelve Loaves

2. wilderness

Leviticus 23:42-43

3. gold

Exodus 26:15-30

4. silver

Exodus 26:19

5. seat

Exodus 25:17-22

6. money

Matthew 6:24

Challenging

1. gold

Psalms 19:10

2. blood

Leviticus 16:14-16

3. judgment (also: judgement)

James 2:13

4. envy

Mark 7:22; Matthew 20:15; Additional Thoughts, Lamp of the Body

5. good

Galatians 6:9-10

6. resurrection

Luke 14:14

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. Other passages explicitly link groups of twelve with Israel's tribes, and Yeshua connects his table with the twelve tribes. These support a possible association, but Leviticus does not explicitly state why there are twelve loaves.

Exodus 24:4; Luke 22:29-30; Leviticus 24:5

2. The lesson calls us to treasure wisdom by learning and doing God's instruction. Its point is spiritual value, not a promise of becoming materially wealthy as we grow closer to God.

Psalms 19:7-11; Proverbs 2:1-8; Psalm 119:9-11

3. The high priest brought blood before God's presence, and the lesson stresses dependence on divine mercy. We cannot manipulate God through ritual. Keep earthly sanctuary purification distinct from the complete saving atonement found in Messiah.

Leviticus 16:14-16; Romans 9:14-16

4. It exposes envy and greed and asks whether our resources serve love. Wealth is an opportunity to help others, while devotion to money obscures that purpose. A practical response is generous, sincere service without expecting repayment.

Matthew 6:22-24; 20:15; Proverbs 3:9

5. They urge perseverance in doing good and hope in God's lasting presence. We can continue faithful service while accepting appropriate rest and care. The priestly-clothing illustration should not forbid mourning or require ignoring human limits.

Galatians 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:10-16; 1 Corinthians 13:12

6. Yeshua models service and promises fellowship in his kingdom. We respond to his generosity by welcoming people, especially those unable to repay us, and using our gifts to serve. Hospitality is fruit of grace, not a purchase of salvation.

Luke 22:24-30; 14:12-14; 1 Peter 4:9-10

Facilitator reminders

Do not turn proposed symbolism, material estimates, or a pastoral analogy into a new command.

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.