

The Tabernacle: An Introduction

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 teaching introduces the Tabernacle and explains why Scripture gives so much detail about its construction, furnishings, and service. The Tabernacle was a movable structure made from wood, metal, cloth, skins, and wool, surrounded by a courtyard. Inside were the altar of incense, menorah, table of showbread, and, behind a veil, the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

The Tabernacle was built so YHWH could dwell among Israel. His presence appeared as a cloud covering the tent and glory filling it. The Hebrew mishkan means dwelling place, while the name Tent of Meeting emphasizes that the people met with God there. Because God's presence made the Tabernacle holy, special standards applied. Uncleaness had to be dealt with before people entered, and the sanctuary could not be defiled.

The Tabernacle was also the place where people brought korban offerings. Korban means an offering; the teaching connects its root with drawing near. The cited animal offerings had to be without blemish. These requirements taught holiness, purity, and reverence in approaching YHWH, and the teaching uses them to illuminate our spiritual relationship with him.

The teaching connects the Tabernacle with a heavenly reality. Hebrews describes its service as a copy and shadow of heavenly things, while Revelation refers to God's temple in heaven and the heavenly Ark. The physical structure gave Israel a visible pattern for understanding how God dwells with his people and how they approach him.

The teaching connects every major part of the Tabernacle with Yeshua. It links the altar with his sacrifice, the laver with cleansing, the menorah with his light, and the table with the bread of life. Incense is associated with prayer and intercession, while Hebrews describes Yeshua as the High Priest who opens access to God. These connections include both explicit biblical images and the teaching's developed parallels.

The lesson relates the Ark to the New Covenant mediated by Yeshua and the glory above it to his glory. Hebrews describes forgiveness and God's laws written within his people. The Tabernacle's details therefore invite us to reflect on worship, cleansing, sacrifice, service, covenant, and access to YHWH through Messiah.

Summary points

- The Tabernacle was a movable dwelling place for YHWH among Israel.
- The Tent of Meeting was where God met and spoke with his people.

- God's presence made the Tabernacle a holy place with special standards.
- Korban means an offering; the cited animal offerings had to be without blemish.
- The Tabernacle was an earthly copy and shadow of heavenly things.
- The altar represents Yeshua's sacrifice for sin.
- The laver represents cleansing and being made holy.
- The menorah and table point to Yeshua as light and bread.
- The incense represents prayer and intercession.
- The High Priest, covenant, and glory point to Yeshua and access to God.

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 Tabernacle was built so YHWH could _____ among Israel.
2. The Hebrew word mishkan means _____ place.
3. The Tabernacle was also called the Tent of _____.
4. Offerings brought when people drew near were called _____.
5. The animal offerings cited in the teaching had to be without _____.
6. Hebrews calls the Tabernacle a copy and _____ of heavenly things.

Challenging

1. The teaching explains miqdash as a sanctuary or _____ place.
2. Ephesians describes cleansing by the washing of water with the _____.
3. Yeshua became a High Priest after the order of _____.
4. In the New Covenant, God writes his laws on his people's _____.
5. Romans 8:34 says Yeshua is _____ for us.
6. Hebrews says we draw near with a true heart in full assurance of _____.

Group discussion

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

1. Why does the teaching say the detailed Tabernacle passages are spiritually important?

2. How do holiness and purity shape access to the Tabernacle?

3. What does the word mishkan add to our understanding of the structure?

4. How does the Tabernacle function as a picture of heavenly realities?

5. How are the different furnishings connected with Yeshua?

6. What does the Tabernacle teach about drawing near to God today?

Answer key

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

Basic

1. dwell

Exodus 25:8

2. dwelling

An Introduction, mishkan explanation

3. Meeting

Exodus 29:42-43

4. korban (also: qorban)

An Introduction, offerings explanation

5. blemish (also: defect)

Leviticus 1:3; 3:1; 4:32

6. shadow

Hebrews 8:4-5

Challenging

1. holy

An Introduction, miqdash explanation

2. word

Ephesians 5:25-27

3. Melchizedek

Hebrews 6:19-20

4. hearts

Hebrews 8:10

5. interceding

Romans 8:34

6. faith

Hebrews 10:19-22

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. The physical instructions reveal God's dwelling among his people, the seriousness of holiness, and biblical images developed in relation to Messiah. Studying the details helps us understand worship and relationship with God, while keeping explicit texts distinct from proposed symbolism.

Exodus 25:8; Hebrews 8:4-5

2. God's presence made the sanctuary holy, so its particular purity and service requirements mattered. Ritual uncleanness must be handled under its actual rules; it should not automatically be equated with moral rebellion or applied to every modern setting.

Leviticus 15:31; Exodus 3:5

3. Mishkan means dwelling place. The name directs attention to YHWH's purpose of dwelling among Israel rather than merely to the building's construction. Tent of Meeting adds the emphasis on God meeting and speaking with his people.

Exodus 25:8; 29:42-43

4. Hebrews calls earthly priestly service a copy and shadow of heavenly things and records the instruction to follow the revealed pattern. Revelation also speaks of a temple in heaven. These passages support the heavenly connection without proving every proposed symbolic detail.

Hebrews 8:4-5; Revelation 11:19

5. The lesson connects sacrifice, washing, light, bread, prayer, priesthood, covenant, and glory with Yeshua's work. Read the supporting texts for each connection and recognize where the teaching develops an analogy beyond an explicit identification.

Ephesians 5:2; John 8:12; 6:35; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 6:19-20

6. We approach with faith in Yeshua's blood and priestly work, seeking cleansing and a sincere heart. Reverence and obedience respond to his provision; the sanctuary illustrations do not create extra saving rituals or authorize unauthorized sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:19-22

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.