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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Tabernacle: The Altar of Sacrifice

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

The bronze-covered altar stood in the courtyard, where sacrifices were offered. It was square, with horns at its corners and rings for carrying poles. The teaching uses its offerings to explore atonement, dedication, and service in our relationship with YHWH.

The sin-offering discussion points to Yeshua's atoning sacrifice. Hebrews describes his single, enduring offering, and Romans grounds justification in his blood. Keep the earthly offerings' ritual function distinct from the complete salvation that only Messiah provides; animal blood was never another way to be saved.

The burnt offering becomes a picture of giving our lives to God. By the Spirit, we turn from sinful desires and offer ourselves as living sacrifices. Paul begins this appeal with God's mercies, so dedication is our response to grace rather than a payment for it.

The teaching connects peace offerings with freely offered service that brings wholeness to others. Praise, sharing, hospitality, and care for people become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Messiah. The connection is a pastoral analogy, not a new sacrificial ritual.

These three pictures distinguish Messiah's saving work from the changed conduct it produces in us. We receive righteousness as a gift and then learn to live in righteousness by the Spirit. We should not collapse justification and growth in obedience into a single system of earning acceptance.

The altar's fire was kept burning continually. The lesson uses that detail to encourage us to return to YHWH, confess sin, surrender our lives, and serve others. We respond to his invitation under the conditions of his word, without treating the illustration as permission to offer unauthorized sacrifices.

Summary points

- The altar was acacia wood overlaid with bronze.
- Four corner horns and carrying poles were part of its design.
- The sin offering points in the lesson to Messiah's atonement.
- Our justification rests on Yeshua's blood.
- The burnt offering illustrates wholehearted dedication.
- The Spirit enables us to turn from sinful desires.
- The peace offering illustrates service and generosity.
- Spiritual sacrifices are acceptable through Messiah.

- Good works express living faith rather than buy forgiveness.
- The continual fire becomes an encouragement to return to YHWH.

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 altar was overlaid with _____.
2. The altar's horizontal shape was a _____.
3. There were horns on its four _____.
4. The teaching connects the sin offering with Yeshua's _____.
5. The burnt offering illustrates giving our _____ to God.
6. The altar's _____ was to be kept burning continually.

Challenging

1. Romans 5:9 says we have been justified by Messiah's _____.
2. Romans 12 begins the living-sacrifice appeal with the _____ of God.
3. By the _____, we put to death the deeds of the body.
4. Psalm 51 identifies a broken and contrite _____ as a sacrifice God will not despise.
5. Hebrews calls doing good and _____ what we have pleasing sacrifices.
6. Romans 5 describes righteousness as a free _____.

Group discussion

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

1. What does the altar's physical design tell us about its place in Israel's worship?

2. How does the teaching connect the sin offering with Messiah while preserving the distinction between them?

3. Why does Romans 12 begin with God's mercies before calling us living sacrifices?

4. What forms can the lesson's peace-offering application take today?

5. How do the three offering pictures relate without becoming three ways to earn salvation?

6. How does the continual-fire illustration encourage repentance and faithful service?

Answer key

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

Basic

1. bronze

Exodus 27:2

2. square

Exodus 27:1

3. corners

Exodus 27:2

4. atonement

Altar of Sacrifice, sin offering discussion

5. lives (also: life)

Romans 12:1-2; Altar of Sacrifice, burnt offering discussion

6. fire

Leviticus 6:13

Challenging

1. blood

Romans 5:9

2. mercies

Romans 12:1

3. Spirit (also: Holy Spirit)

Romans 8:13

4. heart

Psalms 51:16-17

5. sharing

Hebrews 13:16

6. gift

Romans 5:17

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. It was a bronze-covered, portable altar built according to the revealed pattern for courtyard service. Its practical design supported the commanded offerings. The physical details should be read before drawing spiritual analogies from them.

Exodus 27:1-8

2. It points from sacrificial atonement to Yeshua's saving work. His blood grounds justification and his offering is enduring. Earthly offerings had their assigned ritual role; animal blood did not provide the eternal salvation accomplished by Messiah.

Hebrews 10:12-14; Romans 5:9

3. Dedication responds to what God has done. We surrender sinful desires and seek a renewed mind because of mercy. Our self-giving does not replace Yeshua's sacrifice or earn the righteousness offered as a gift.

Romans 12:1-2; 5:17

4. Praise, sharing resources, welcoming others, feeding the hungry, and practical care can express thankful service. These spiritual sacrifices are acceptable through Messiah. The analogy encourages generosity without instituting a new offering ceremony.

1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15-16; Matthew 25:37-40

5. Messiah provides atonement; we respond in dedication and Spirit-enabled service. The lesson uses righteousness both for the gift received and for conduct that follows. Keep saving grace and its practical fruit distinct while holding them together.

Romans 5:17-19; Ezekiel 36:27; 1 John 3:7, 10

6. It pictures God's readiness to receive our return. We can confess sin, renew dedication, and act generously rather than remain distant in shame. The application remains spiritual and does not authorize sacrifices outside the sanctuary's biblical conditions.

Leviticus 6:8-13; Malachi 3:7

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.