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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Tabernacle: The Tent of Meeting

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 focuses on the tent covering over the Tabernacle. Exodus describes eleven goats' hair curtains, a covering of rams' skins, and an outer covering whose Hebrew material name is uncertain. The lesson uses this temporary, skin-covered dwelling as an analogy for our mortal bodies.

God intended the sanctuary as a place to dwell among Israel and meet with his people. The teaching relates that purpose to the Spirit's presence among and within believers. Biblical language about bodies as tents supports the analogy, while 1 Corinthians 3 addresses the congregation together as God's temple.

The Tabernacle's temporary character also points, in the lesson's interpretation, toward our hope of resurrection life. Paul describes mortality being clothed with life and the Spirit as God's guarantee. Our present lives matter as we learn to please God while awaiting that promise.

The lesson connects breath and Spirit language in Genesis, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John. Ezekiel's dry bones explicitly represent Israel, and the teaching draws an application about life from God. Ordinary human breath and the Spirit's renewing presence should not be treated as interchangeable in every passage.

God's presence sanctified the Tent of Meeting, and the Spirit calls believers into holy living. Yeshua's saving work and the Spirit's renewal ground this transformation. Obedience expresses a changed life; it does not earn or maintain salvation by personal merit.

The practical invitation is to live faithfully now rather than merely wait for a future home. We use these mortal bodies in love and service, grow in God's instruction, and depend on his Spirit. The promised resurrection gives purpose and hope without denying our present weakness and need for grace.

Summary points

- The lesson specifically studies the Tabernacle's tent covering.
- The goats' hair layer contained eleven curtains.
- The outer covering's exact material is uncertain.
- Scripture uses a tent as an image of mortal life.
- YHWH wanted to dwell among Israel and meet with his people.
- The Spirit is described as a guarantee of the life God prepares.

- Ezekiel's dry bones represent Israel in their original setting.
- The teaching applies the imagery to Spirit-enabled life now.
- The Spirit's sanctifying work calls us to holy conduct.
- Our present aim is to please God while awaiting resurrection life.

Fill in the blank

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

Basic

1. This lesson focuses on the Tabernacle's tent covering, or _____.
2. The goats' hair layer contained _____ curtains.
3. One covering was made from the skins of _____.
4. Peter compares his mortal life with a _____.
5. YHWH commanded the sanctuary so he could _____ among Israel.
6. God sanctified the Tent of Meeting by his _____.

Challenging

1. Paul describes the Spirit as a _____ of the life God has prepared.
2. Paul says we walk by faith, not by _____.
3. In Ezekiel 37:11, the dry bones represent the house of _____.
4. Yeshua breathed on the disciples and told them to receive the Holy _____.
5. First Corinthians 6:11 says believers were washed, sanctified, and _____.
6. Whether at home or away, Paul makes it his aim to _____ God.

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 this episode actually study, and which construction detail remains uncertain?

2. What does the tent-and-body analogy help us understand?

3. Why does our present life matter if we await an enduring future dwelling?

4. How should we handle the lesson's breath and dry-bones connections?

5. How are sanctification, obedience, and grace related in this lesson?

6. How can we live as faithful temporary dwellings this week?

Answer key

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

Basic

1. roof

Tent of Meeting, opening

2. eleven (also: 11)

Exodus 26:7

3. rams

Exodus 26:14

4. tent

2 Peter 1:13-14

5. dwell

Exodus 25:8

6. glory

Exodus 29:43

Challenging

1. guarantee (also: pledge, deposit)

2 Corinthians 5:5

2. sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

3. Israel

Ezekiel 37:11

4. Spirit (also: Holy Spirit)

John 20:22

5. justified

1 Corinthians 6:11

6. please

2 Corinthians 5:9

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 studies the roof or tent covering, including goats' hair curtains, rams' skins, and the outer material called tachash. Translations differ on the final material, so the guide should preserve that uncertainty rather than identify a species confidently.

Exodus 26:7-14; Tent of Meeting, covering discussion

2. It joins temporary, skin-covered life with the possibility of God's presence. Scripture itself uses tents for mortal bodies. The Tabernacle comparison is the teaching's developed illustration, while the congregation-as-temple passage retains its corporate meaning.

2 Peter 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; 1 Corinthians 3:16

3. God gives the Spirit now, and Paul makes pleasing him the present aim. We learn faithfulness and service in our mortal condition rather than treating this life as meaningless waiting. Resurrection hope gives present obedience purpose.

2 Corinthians 5:5-9; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

4. Read each passage in context. Genesis describes human life from God; Ezekiel's bones represent Israel; John records Yeshua's gift of the Spirit. The teaching connects their imagery, but shared words do not make every use identical.

Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 37:3-6, 11; John 20:21-22

5. God's saving work and the Spirit's presence set us apart for holy living. We respond by learning and obeying his word. Growth in obedience is the fruit of grace, not a meritorious way to keep God's acceptance.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

6. We can use our bodies and time to serve, turn from known sin, attend to God's word, and depend on the Spirit. We also acknowledge weakness and need for help while keeping our hope in God's promised resurrection life.

Romans 8:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:9

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.