

LIFEGROUPS

THE TABERNACLE

Look at the diagram of the tabernacle

1. There are lots of different elements to it. How does the process of the tabernacle illustrate the gospel message?
2. Read Ezekiel 37:26-27
The Israelites had the privilege of having God dwell with them, in the tabernacle. But what Ezekiel talks about here is something different. How does our current supersede the Israelites experience?
3. The tabernacle was temporary and portable. The temple was fixed and the centre of the culture and society. But then Jesus tells the Samaritan woman in John 4:22-24:

You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

We are the mobile temple of God, capable of and responsible to worship in all circumstances. How does this reality challenge your everyday living?

4. Read Exodus 26:31-35. This describes the setting p of the Most Holy Place. Why do you think God did this? What do you think the people thought of it? What can we learn from a Most Holy Place?

LEADER'S NOTES

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader. Let the Word of God lead you and your LIFEGROUP to HEAR God's prophetic message this week as you explore His Word together. The idea is that reflecting and sharing together about God's Word, will speak into your current situations to challenge, encourage, or inspire you this week.

The Tabernacle

The tabernacle was an intricately designed and explained place of worship for the travelling Israelites as they made their way through the desert. Why would God include so much detail and explanation into the tabernacle? It turns out, the tabernacle is a powerful telling of the gospel story. It highlights our separation, our fallenness, God's holiness, atonement, and the intimacy which God desires with us.

Each element has deep symbolic meaning, that reflects Christ's complete perfection.

The Message of The Tabernacle

The tabernacle was given by God as a display of truth. Each item in the tabernacle served as a visual aid, reminding God's people of his character, comforting them with his grace, and assuring them of the hope he extends to sinners.



Key: Each piece of furniture...

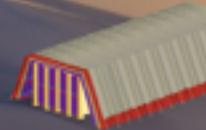
- Showed the sinner's need
- Symbolized God's temporary provision
- Pointed to a greater fulfillment in the coming Messiah



The Altar
God *saves* sinners



The Laver
God *cleanses* sinners



The Tabernacle
God *lives among* sinners



The Lampstand
God *gives light* to sinners



The Ark
God *reigns over* sinners



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This is a helpful graphic that illustrates the different elements of the tabernacle. The symbolism of the artefacts are helpfully explained here. This diagram may be useful for your discussion about the tabernacle.
<http://www.challies.com/resources/visual-theology-the-tabernacle>