



## Before the Lesson

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your LIFE Group meets.**

Scripture passages: 1 Chronicles 17:1-4, 11-13, 21:21-24, 2 Chronicles 3:1-2, and Hebrews

In Exodus 25:8 God told Moses, *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.* From the earliest pages of His Word, we have seen God's desire to dwell with His people. We also see His love and care in His choosing to provide a visual representation of His presence through an earthly sanctuary. God made us to know Him, love Him, honor Him, and serve Him. He wants fellowship with us. God's disclosure of Himself through the ages affirms this desire to be present in our lives and to be at the heart of all we are and do. Initially, God instructed His people to build a portable tabernacle (sanctuary) for His presence to dwell. Later, a permanent temple was constructed. Both demonstrated what was involved in having a right relationship with God through sacrifices and burnt offerings and foreshadowed the coming of Christ. Jesus came to dwell on earth and became the once-for-all perfect and permanent sacrifice. Now, as believers, we are the temple, and the Spirit of God dwells in us, forever providing us with the awareness of His presence, access to Jesus, complete acceptance, and the assurance of our salvation.

### Focus question:

How does the temple give us awareness, access, acceptance, and assurance of Jesus, our High Priest?

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## Group Discussion

- Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-4, 11-13, 21:21-24, and 2 Chronicles 3:1-2. Briefly recap the events that occurred after King David decided to build a temple for the Lord and the details for its construction.
- From 1 Chronicles 21:24, we read that King David insisted upon paying the full price for the land that the temple would be built upon. Are you displaying this same type of attitude as you tithe, serve, or invest in others for the Kingdom?
- What was significant about Mt. Moriah, and how do the events that occurred there ultimately point to Jesus? (See Genesis 22.)
- What was the purpose of the tabernacle/temple as it relates to God? (See Exodus 25:8.)
- What does it mean to you that a holy God would choose to dwell with sinful man? What does this tell you about God?

- The tabernacle and temple provided a place of awareness, access, acceptance, and assurance for God's people. How does the temple remind us of these things and ultimately point us to our High Priest, Jesus, who provided these things once for all?

Look at the elements within the tabernacle below to help you answer these questions:

- Brazen altar (used for burnt offerings to make atonement for the people, Leviticus 1:1-9, 17:11, Hebrews 9:13-14, 10:10, 14, 18)
  - Bronze laver (used by the priest for cleansing before entering the Holy Place, Ephesians 5:25-27, Hebrews 10:22)
  - Golden lampstand (the only source of light for the Holy Place, John 8:12, 12:46)
  - Table of showbread (showed God's willingness to commune with His people, John 6:35, Matthew 26:26, Revelation 3:20)
  - Golden altar of incense (symbolized the prayers of intercession made by the priest on behalf of the people going up to God, Psalm 141:2, Isaiah 56:7, John 17:1-26, Romans 8:34)
  - The veil (separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies; used to represent the separation between a holy God and sinful man, Matthew 27:45-51, 6:19-20, 10:19-22, Hebrews 9:7)
  - Ark of the covenant (housed the Mercy Seat where God's presence would dwell, Exodus 25:22, Hebrews 4:16, 10:19-22)
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. For believers, where is the temple today? Who resides in your temple? How does this knowledge confirm awareness of Jesus' presence in your life, total access to Jesus, His acceptance of you, and assurance of your salvation?
    - Does this comfort or convict you?
    - Does this cause you to want to tell others about the hope you have in Jesus?
    - How will you respond to this knowledge?

### Further Study (to be used in your personal Quiet Time)

- Read the book of Hebrews this week so you can gain further insight into Jesus as your High Priest.

**Joshua Code memory verse:**

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. – Jeremiah 33:3*

### Family Time

Make a homemade tabernacle/temple this week with your children. Explain (in language they can understand) the articles of the temple and how they point us to Jesus.



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