

# Lesson 1

## The Tabernacle Court and the Holy Place

Exodus 24:12-25:9, 25:23-40, 26: 15-30, 27:1-21,  
30:17-21, 37:10-24, 38:1-8 and 38:27

Begin today's lesson by asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

1. Read Exodus 24:12-25:9, 25:23-40, 26:15-30, 27:1-21, 30:17-21, 37:10-24, 38:1-8 and 38:27. What strikes you as you first read these verses?
2. Where was Moses when he received the instructions for building the tabernacle? See Exodus 24:12-25:9.
3. From whom did the pattern for the tabernacle come? Was it important to God for Moses to get the pattern right? See Exodus 25:9, 25:40, 27:8, Numbers 8:4 and Hebrews 8:5.
4. How were the funds/supplies for the tabernacle raised? See Exodus 25:2, 35:5 and 35:21.
5. Relate these Old Testament verses (Exodus 25:2, 35:5 and 35:21) about giving to II Corinthians 9:7.

*"And let them construct  
a sanctuary for Me,  
that I may dwell among  
them."*

*Exodus 25:8*

6. Was the capital campaign successful? See Exodus 36:5-7.
  
7. According to Exodus 25:8 and 25:22, what was the purpose of the tabernacle?

## The Tabernacle Court

The tabernacle was located inside a fenced rectangular courtyard. The entire tabernacle compound was portable, designed to move with the Israelites throughout the wilderness. The fence was constructed of curtains hung on movable wooden frames.

8. The court is described in Exodus 27:9-19. A cubit is roughly 18 inches. Calculate the length, width and height of the courtyard fence.
  
9. There was only one gate or door to the courtyard. Describe the gate from Exodus 27:16.
  
10. Who is the door in John 10:7 and John 10:9?
  
11. How is this one gate a picture of Jesus' words in John 14:6?

## The Bronze Altar Exodus 27:1-8, 38:1-7

As one entered the tabernacle courtyard, the first thing encountered was the bronze (brass, brazen) altar.

12. Read Exodus 27:1-8 and 38:1-7. Describe the altar and estimate its size (1 cubit = 18 inches).

The bronze altar was the designated place for the sacrifices prescribed in Leviticus chapters 1-7. Scan these chapters to understand these daily rituals. The bronze altar was also the place where the animals were sacrificed once a year on the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16).

13. What was on each corner of the altar?

14. How was the fire kindled? See Leviticus 6:13 and 9:24.

The altar was the place where the blood sacrifices were made. The death of the sacrifice signified that the one who offered the sacrifice deserved death for their offense.

15. Consider Romans 5:6-11, Colossians 1:20-21, Hebrews 9:22, 10:10 and I Peter 3:18. How does the bronze altar foreshadow the cross of Christ?

16. The bronze altar was also a place of protection. See I Kings 1:50-53. How does this also foreshadow the cross?

### **The Bronze Laver**

#### **Exodus 30:17-21 and 38:8**

17. Describe the bronze laver from Exodus 30:17-21 and 38:8.

18. How are we cleansed spiritually? See Psalm 119:9, John 13:4-10, John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26 and I John 1:8-9.

### **The Tabernacle**

The bronze altar and bronze laver were in the open courtyard of the tabernacle compound. To the west in the courtyard was the tabernacle itself. This was a portable, rectangular building made of wood frames covered with curtains and animal skins. The tabernacle had two rooms: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Just as the entrance to the courtyard had only one gate, there was only one door into the tabernacle.

### **The Silver Foundation** **Exodus 26:19-25, 38:27**

The foundation of the boards that formed the frame of the tabernacle was made of silver sockets that connected to form a strong base for the boards.

19. In the Bible silver symbolizes redemption. Read Mark 10:45, I Peter 1:18 and I Corinthians 6:19-20. Discuss how our redemption is foundational to our relationship with God.

### **The Boards** **Exodus 26:15-30**

20. The wooden boards were fitted together in a precise way to form a steady frame for the walls of fabric. How might these boards picture the church - the body of Christ? See Ephesians 4:11-16.

### **The Holy Place**

The Holy Place was the first room of the tabernacle. It was about 30 feet long by 15 feet wide. It held three pieces of furniture which were portable: the table for bread, the lampstand and the altar of incense.

### **The Lampstand** **Exodus 25:31-40 and 37:17-24**

21. Describe the lampstand from Exodus 25:31-40 and 37:17-24.
22. In Revelation 1:12-20 John has a vision. Describe what he learns about the seven lamps. Who is in the midst of the lamps?
23. Who was the light of the world while He was on earth? See John 8:12 and John 9:5.
24. According to Matthew 5:14-16, who is now to bring light to the world? How?

**The Table and the Bread**  
**Exodus 25:23-30 and 37:10-16**

25. Of what was the table made?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
26. What do you think the table symbolizes? (Hint: think about breaking bread together).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
27. What was placed on the table?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
28. Read Leviticus 24:5-6 to learn about the showbread (shewbread). What do you think the number twelve represents here?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
29. In the Old Testament, the bread of presence or shewbread was intended only for priests. See Matthew 12:3-4. Who are the priests in the New Testament according to I Peter 2:5?

**The Oil for the Lamps**  
**Exodus 27:20-21, Leviticus 24:2-4**

30. In the Bible oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Read about the Holy Spirit in John 14:26, John 15:26-27, John 16:7-15, Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8. How is the oil burning through the lamps a picture of what the Holy Spirit does in the life of a believer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
31. If you entered the tabernacle compound, in what sequence would you encounter each element of the design? Do you see any progression that parallels the walk of a Christian? Discuss.

**Prepare for Life**

32. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?