

# *A Reflection of* **JESUS**

## The Preparation

---

**D**uring the Feast of Tabernacles, you will have the privilege of leading your students to a greater understanding of what it means to worship God. While worship alone is an abstract concept, it can be taught through learning experiences. We have provided many suggestions to help you be successful. An important point to remember is to help your students reach the highest and fullest form of understanding; the activities used to teach must relate to the story or concept you just taught.

When your students are learning about the outpouring of giving that enabled the Tabernacle to be built, let them do a project that gives to their family or church.

When they learn about the building of the Tabernacle and the Temple, let them build. When they are learning about the beautiful curtains and garments worn by the priest, let them see beautiful fabrics and do embroidery.

Teach your students that true worship is not sitting on the sidelines like a spectator watching his favorite sporting event. True worship involves thoughts and feelings.

Worshiping God is not just sitting in church and listening to the minister preach. To worship God is to think about

Him while singing or listening to a Bible story, taking time to appreciate who He is and what He has done and is doing for you. It is also about responding to God with reverence.

One may do this through praise, song, prayer, and joy. Only God deserves complete and total worship. Jesus said, when He was tempted by Satan, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10).

The Tabernacle was the Israelites' sacred tent where they worshiped God. During their wanderings through the wilderness, and after they conquered Canaan, the Tabernacle was God's house. It was where God revealed Himself and lived among His people. It was used as a place for worship until King Solomon built the Temple.

While the Tabernacle was lost hundreds of years ago, the details of how it was built is very important to us today. In John 1:14 it says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

The word *dwelt* in Greek means "tabernacled." Those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, been baptized, and had the laying-on-of-hands has the

Lord dwelling in them. He, Jesus Christ, is dwelling in our earthly bodies which are also called “tents,” or tabernacles (2 Corinthians 5:1; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27).

The Tabernacle and its furnishings were designed by God to foreshadow Jesus Christ and His work. Prior to teaching these lessons, read and meditate on Hebrews 9 and 10.

### **How to Use**

**1** There are nine lessons provided for the feast. Prior to the Feast of Tabernacles, decide which of the following lessons you will teach. The Tabernacle and the furnishings are quite involved.

Depending on the ages of your students, you may choose to take another day teaching about the building and furnishings or you may wish to cover the material in a single day.

**2** Shop for all the supplies you need for the craft projects you choose. The more you prepare, the greater success you will have.

Since we do not always know how many children will attend Sabbath school at the feast, it is always best to prepare for a greater number of students.

In addition, if you choose activities that require using scissors to cut out shapes, that should be done in advance to save time. Once again, this depends on the age of your students.

**3** We will be providing an “activity workbook” for each student this year. Encourage your students to bring their books to class.

The books will correspond with the lessons you will be teaching.

**4** A song has been provided. This is probably the highlight at each feast site for the entire congregation.

Reinforce with your students that when they sing for the congregation they are not only giving to their church but they are also worshipping God.

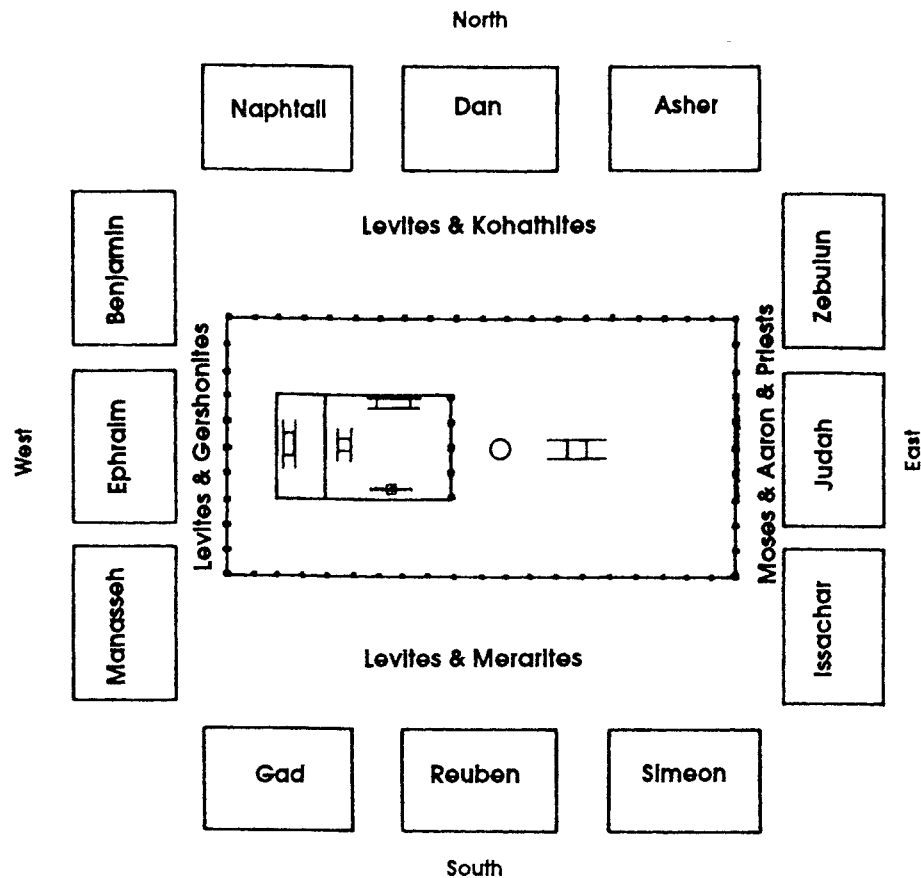
If you are not musical, find someone who will come into your class for about 10 to 15 minutes each day of the feast to help teach the children the song.

Make it fun! Do not get discouraged if everything you do isn't a success. We, as teachers, are working toward being mature and complete. You will reach your highest potential as a teacher when you teach by example. Let your love for God, your Christian joy, and your worshipful attitude inspire your students and help them joyfully worship and experience the love of God.

Our goal at the feast is to teach our children the truth of God and learn how to worship the one holy God.

So, as you prepare for this feast's Sabbath school, go to God in prayer and ask that He prepare your heart and mind. Then relax and take delight in sharing the word of God with the children. Your heart will be ready for the task ahead. □

# Encampment Layout



- The Tabernacle was a moveable “tent of meeting” that God commanded Moses to build (Exodus 25:1,2; 25:8–9).

- There are 50 chapters in the Bible that discuss the Tabernacle

- The Tabernacle would have fit in half of a football or soccer field.

- The Tabernacle was a shadow of things in heaven. Hebrews 8:1–5 tells us that the real Tabernacle is in heaven.

- The Tabernacle was built using many expensive materials: *gold, silver, bronze, pre-*

*cius woods, and rare cloth.* In modern terms the cost would exceed \$1 million. Offerings from the Israelites paid for the materials (Exodus 35:22–36:3)

- The Israelites were so generous they gave more than was needed. Moses had to command them to stop giving (Exodus 36:6).

- The Tabernacle was in the center of the Israelite camp. The twelve tribes of Israel camped around it. *On the North:* Naphtali, Asher, Dan. *On the South:* Gad, Simeon, Reuben. *On the East:* Judah, Issachar, Zebulun. *On the West:* Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin.