

VBS 2025 K-5th Grade

THE Tabernacle TREK

THE JOURNEY TO GOD'S PRESENCE

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT
THROUGH ME."

JOHN 14:6

Family Resource Book

Table of Contents

WHAT IS THE TABERNACLE TREK.....	2
WHY LEARN THE TABERNACLE TREK.....	3
TABERNACLE LAYOUT.....	4
SYMBOLS OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	5
COMPLETION IN CHRIST.....	6
TABERNACLE TREK SONG LYRICS.....	7
THE BRONZE ALTAR.....	8
THE BRONZE BASIN.....	9
THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND.....	10
THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD.....	11
THE ALTAR OF INCENSE.....	12
THE VEIL.....	13
THE HIGH PRIEST.....	14
THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.....	15
PROGRESSION OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE BIBLE.....	16
THE GARDEN & TABERNACLE.....	17
THE TEMPLE & JESUS.....	18
THE CHURCH & NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH.....	19
OTHER TEACHING TOOLS.....	20
THE GOSPEL IN COLOR.....	21- 22
THE BIBLE PATH.....	23- 26

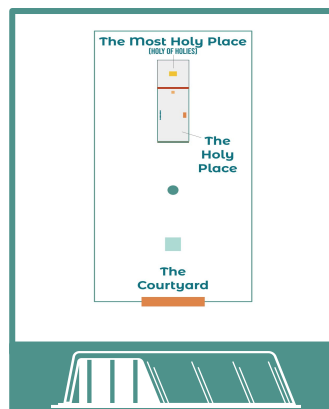
What is the Tabernacle Trek?

After God led the Israelites out of slavery from Egypt and crossed the Red Sea under the leadership of Moses, he led them to Mount Sinai. God's presence descended on the mountain in a thick cloud and fire where he called Moses up and gave laws for how his chosen people, a holy nation, should live.

It was also on the mountain that God provided the blueprints for the Tabernacle. To understand the purpose of the Tabernacle, we have to go back. Way back. Back to Genesis in the Garden of Eden. Man was able to dwell with God in his presence in perfect peace prior to sin. But after the Fall in chapter 3, man was sent out from the garden and away from God's holy presence.

God was giving Moses and the Israelites instructions on how to build a place where his presence would come and dwell among his people again. It was the meeting point between impure, common man and a pure, holy God. The Tabernacle was a portable temple within a moveable courtyard. The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy of Holies where God's presence would be, much like a king's throne. Entry into God's holy presence followed a specific path that God details in both Exodus and Leviticus.

God's precise instructions for the path to enter into his Holy presence are filled with imagery that points us back to the Garden of Eden and forward to the coming of Christ.



Why Learn the Tabernacle Trek?

Much of the New Testament language to describe Jesus and the salvation we have through him is rich in references rooted in the Old Testament. We can't forget that what we read in the last third of the Bible is the continuation of a story that began in Genesis. First century Jews reading the four gospels, the books of Acts, Revelation, and all of the epistles from the New Testament would have understood phrases and descriptions of Jesus through the lens of the Old Testament scriptures. Check out the verses below from the first two chapters of 1 Peter. There are several references to events or concepts that originate in Exodus and Leviticus.

...for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood ... (1 Peter 1:2)	The High Priest sprinkled blood on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies for the atonement of the people's sins.
...but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)	Leviticus 19:2, as God is giving instructions on laws Israelites were to follow, he reminds them that he is Holy so they should be too.
...with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot . (1 Peter 1:19)	Leviticus 17:11 explains that the shedding of blood was necessary for atonement of sin. Leviticus details that animals used for sacrifices had to be without blemish, and a lamb was sacrificed for the Passover.
Having purified your souls... (1 Peter 1:22)	Purification is a major theme in Leviticus. There were several purification rituals, including the priests washing their hands and feet in the Bronze Basin before entering the Tabernacle.
...to be a holy priesthood , to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5)	The Levitical priesthood was responsible for making animal sacrifices. Speaking to the Israelites in Exodus 19:5-6, God says, "you will be my kingdom of priests..."

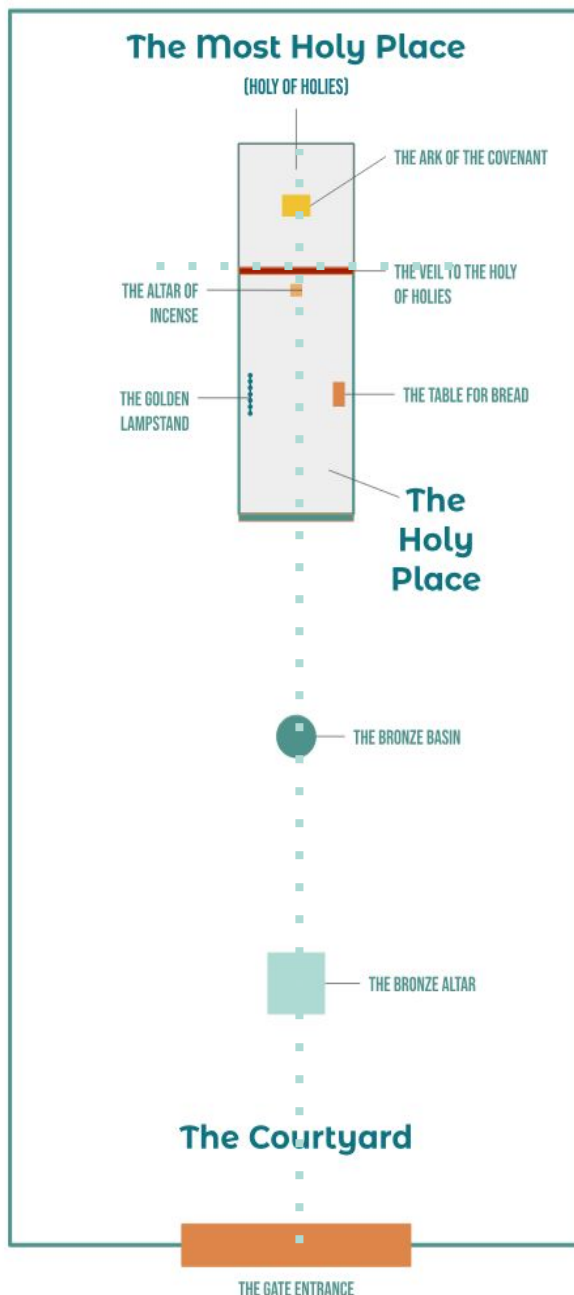
Diving deeper into the books, themes, characters, and concepts of the Old Testament helps us better understand who Jesus is, his work of salvation, and our response to him.

Every element in the
Tabernacle as
described in Exodus,
and the rituals,
sacrifices, and feasts
detailed in Leviticus
are rich in

SYMBOLISM & PURPOSE

Did you know?

Biblical typology
is the study of
“types” and
“shadows” in
Scripture, where
people, events, or
objects in the Old
Testament
foreshadow
greater spiritual
truths fulfilled in
the New
Testament.

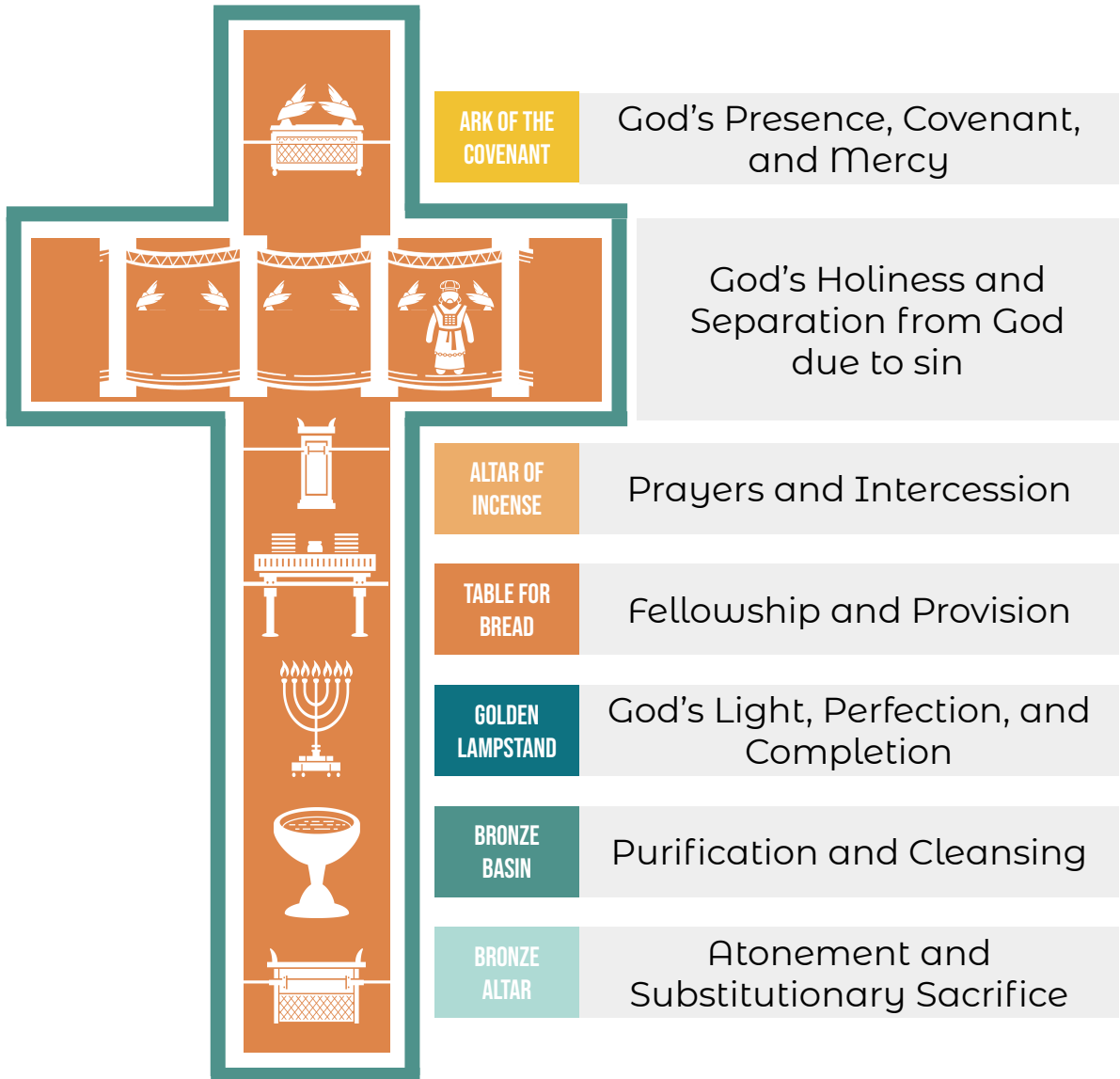


CAN YOU FIND THE CROSS ON THE PATH TO THE
HOLY OF HOLIES WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE IS?



SYMBOLS OF SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT DO THE OBJECTS OF THE TABERNACLE REPRESENT?



COMPLETION IN CHRIST

HOW DOES CHRIST FULFILL EACH SYMBOL?



Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant & mercy

ARK OF THE COVENANT

Jesus is our high priest who gives us direct access to God through his own sacrifice

Jesus intercedes for us before God

ALTAR OF INCENSE

Jesus is the bread of life who sustains us

TABLE FOR BREAD

Jesus is the light of the world

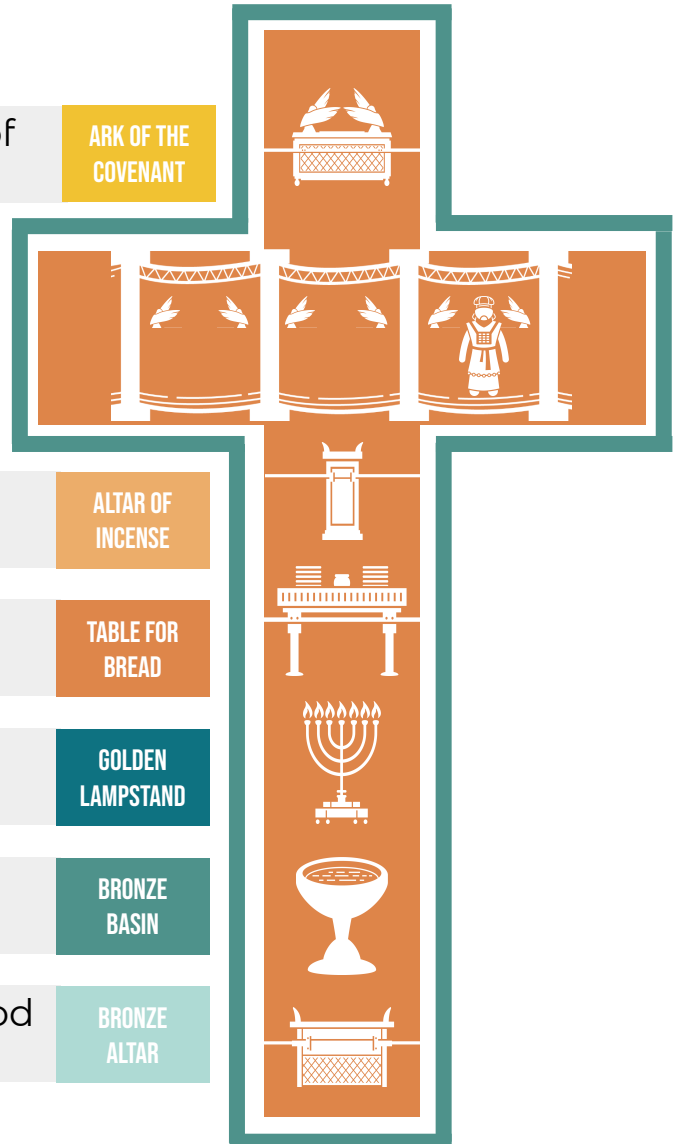
GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

Jesus' blood washes us clean

BRONZE BASIN

Jesus was the Lamb of God who died in our place

BRONZE ALTAR





This is the Tabernacle Trek, Hey Hey Hey
Oh it's the only, only way
To enter in God's holy space
Oh it's the Tabernacle Trek.

In order to enter, a debt must be paid
There at the altar a life is laid
Washed in the basin made pure and clean
Glorious gold, your light is seen
On the Tabernacle Trek, Hey Hey Hey
(repeat chorus)

A table of bread for the bread of life
A veil hangs down, separation in sight
Smell the aroma as prayers ascend
Sweet is the entry your mercy within
On the Tabernacle Trek, Hey Hey Hey
(repeat chorus)

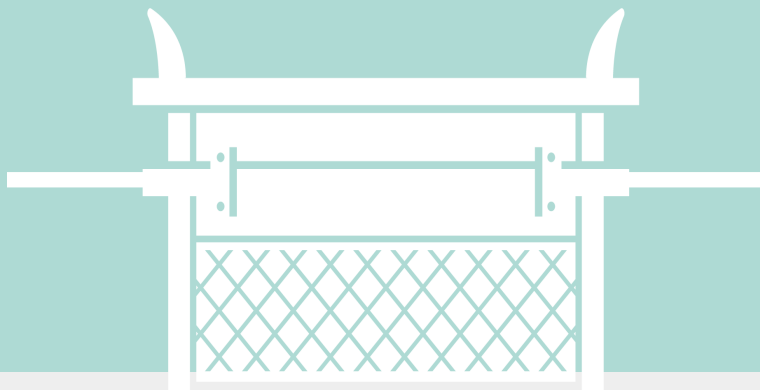
Jesus you died and washed us clean
Your light still shines eternally
Your body like bread saves us all
You tore the veil once and for all

On the Tabernacle Trek, Hey Hey Hey
Jesus you are the only way
To enter in God's holy space
Yes you are the Tabernacle Trek!

The bronze altar was used throughout the year for the five major offerings described in Leviticus: burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt. Israelites could bring animals or grain as an act of thanksgiving, worship, expression of peace and fellowship, or to make atonement for sin.

The high priest could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement. In order to enter, he first had to sacrifice a bull at the bronze altar for his own sins and a goat for the sins of the people. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we no longer have to make sacrifices to be in God's presence.

HEBREWS 10:10 EXPLAINS THAT JESUS IS THE PERFECT, ONCE AND FOR ALL SACRIFICE.



The Bronze Altar

The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

JOHN 1:29



The basin (also called laver) stood between the bronze altar and the Tabernacle in the courtyard. Like the altar, it was made of bronze (which may have represented sin as opposed to the gold used inside the Tabernacle), and was a reminder of the need to be cleansed both ritually and spiritually.

Priests could not enter the Tabernacle to complete their daily ritual services without first washing their hands and feet in the water, otherwise they would die.

IT IS FITTING THAT JESUS HIMSELF CHOSE TO WASH HIS DISCIPLES FEET THE NIGHT BEFORE HE DIED. HE WASHES US CLEAN FROM OUR SIN, PREPARING US TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR HOLY GOD.



The Bronze Basin

**The blood of Jesus his Son
cleanses us from all sin.**



The golden lampstand, like the other objects inside the Holy Place was made of gold, and it gave light for the otherwise dark tent. Priests added pure olive oil twice every day so that it would burn continually. Every element of the lampstand represented an attribute of God or the fulfillment in Christ, from the almond shaped buds to the seven flames.

It is a powerful symbol of God's presence, purity, authority, guidance, and completion.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT THAT THE LORD OFFERED AND HIS LIGHT WILL NEVER GO OUT. HE CONTINUES TO RULE, GUIDE, AND COMPLETE US.



The Golden Lampstand

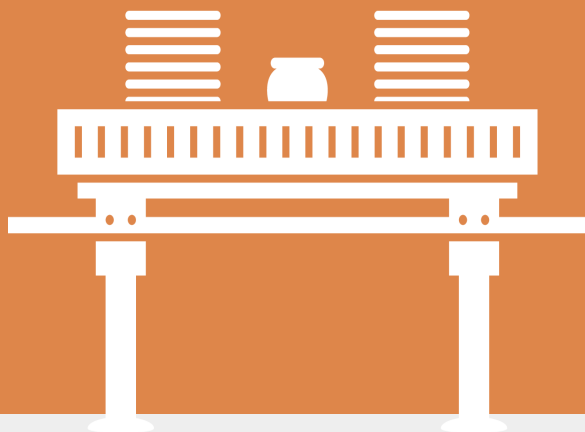
“I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.

JOHN 8:12



In the Bible, the word bread appears around 300 times. Bread in scripture is more than just food- it's a powerful symbol of God's provision, Jesus' sacrifice, and the source of physical and spiritual nourishment. It is no wonder it was included inside in the Tabernacle. Located in the Holy Place, priests placed 12 loaves of bread on the table each Sabbath, representing the 12 tribes of Israel's offering and communion with God.

JESUS FILLS US BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. THE BREAD HE OFFERS IS HIS OWN BODY, AND THROUGH IT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE!



The Table of Showbread

“I am the bread of life”

JOHN 6:35



Priests burned a special blend of spices every morning and evening on the Altar of Incense inside the Holy Place. Among the spices used was pure frankincense, which was prophetically gifted to Jesus after his birth by the magi. Its sweet aroma reminded the people of God's presence as the incense symbolically represented prayers the priest made on behalf of the people.

JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST WHOSE PURE OFFERING WAS A PLEASING AROMA, AND HE CONTINUALLY INTERCEDES FOR US BEFORE GOD.



The Altar of Incense

Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

ROMANS 8:34



The veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies where God's presence dwelled in the Tabernacle was a heavy curtain with weighty significance. The veil represented the separation of all humanity from God due to sin, which began in the Garden of Eden. Crafted according to God's instructions, the colors depicted the person and work of Jesus Christ.

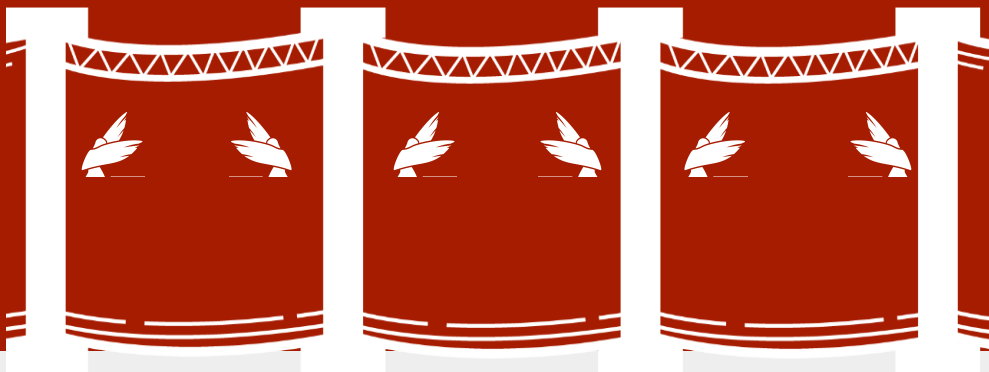
Blue= Jesus' Divine Nature

Red= Jesus' blood shed for our sins

Purple= Jesus is the King of Kings

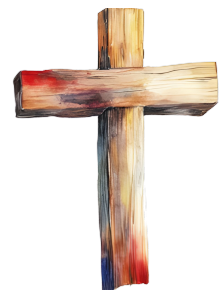
White= Jesus is pure and holy

WHEN JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS, THE VEIL WAS TORN GRANTING US PERMANENT AND CONTINUAL ACCESS TO GOD'S PRESENCE



The Veil

The curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom...



The high priest, a man from the tribe of Levi and a descendant of Aaron, was the mediator between God and the Israelites.

He was responsible for, and the only one permitted to offer sacrifices to make atonement for sin, conduct prayers of intercession, and enter the Holy of Holies all on the Day of Atonement. Sacrifices were repeated and access to God's presence was temporary at the time of the Tabernacle.

Everything from the high priests' responsibilities to his garments was a shadow of the true High Priest, Jesus Christ.

JESUS ACCOMPLISHED PERFECT ATONEMENT, INTERCEDES ETERNALLY, AND BRINGS BELIEVERS INTO DIRECT ACCESS WITH GOD.



The High Priest

**We have a great high priest...Jesus
the Son of God**

HEBREWS 4:14



The Ark of the Covenant, made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold, was the focus of the Tabernacle and was situated in the Holy of Holies. Like the throne of a king, the Ark of the Covenant served as a dwelling place for God among his people. Atop the lid of the ark featured two cherubim forming the mercy seat. Inside the Ark, its contents served as a reminder to the people of God's righteousness (10 Commandments), provision (jar of manna), and authority (Aaron's staff).

JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS WHO DWELT AMONG US AND STILL REIGNS. HE PERFECTLY FULFILLED THE LAW, WAS THE BREAD OF HEAVEN GOD PROVIDED, AND WAS CHOSEN BY GOD TO BE THE MEANS BY WHICH WE WOULD RECEIVE MERCY.



The Ark of the Covenant

Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.



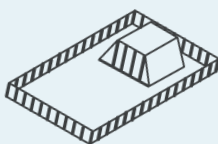
THE PROGRESSION OF

God's Presence

IN THE BIBLE

We see through scripture a progression of God's presence. God is omnipresent, which means he is present everywhere, but the Bible also describes God choosing to dwell with or to be present among his people in different ways, in different places, and at different times. Recognizing the progression is foundational for understanding the Bible as a whole.

See how the Tabernacle fits into the larger story of the Bible!



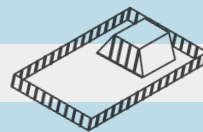
The Garden of Eden

When God created the heavens and the earth, he intended to dwell with all his creation. God had walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but when they disobeyed and ate the forbidden fruit, sin entered the world. Adam and Eve were banished or exiled from the garden and away from God's holy presence. All of their offspring carry the curse of sin and separation to this day.



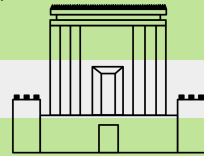
The Tabernacle

God gave instructions to Moses and the Israelites on how to build a place where his presence would dwell again. God's detailed instructions for the Tabernacle (a portable temple inside a moveable courtyard) are filled with imagery that points us back to the Garden of Eden. God's presence was in the Holy of Holies, but sinful man cannot enter into the presence of a holy God, so God provided the laws, rituals, and sacrifices in Leviticus to purify the impure and unclean and make atonement for sin. Access to God's presence in the Tabernacle was restricted and temporary.



The Temple

After the Israelites inhabited the promised land, God commissioned Solomon to build the first temple in Jerusalem. It was to replace the Tabernacle and provide a more permanent location for God's presence to be among his chosen people. Access to God's presence in the temple was still restricted and temporary. But God's presence did not stay in the temple forever due to the sin and idolatry. That temple would later be destroyed when Babylon conquered Judah. When God's people were allowed to return from exile, they rebuilt the temple, but God's presence did not return as before.



Jesus

Isaiah 7:14 is a prophecy referring to Jesus when it says, "His name shall be Emmanuel, which means *God with us...*" Jesus, the Son of God, came to walk with man again. He walked temporarily to provide a permanent and eternal solution for our sin. Just like Leviticus provided a way for people to enter into the presence of God in the Tabernacle and temples, Jesus became the once and for all sacrifice that grants us atonement or forgiveness of our sin and access to God's presence. Through his blood, we are made clean and righteous. The temple veil was torn, proving that man was no longer separated from our holy creator.



The Church

After Jesus, God began constructing a totally different kind of temple. In 1 Peter 2:5 we are described as a temple being built up, and in 1 Corinthians 3:17 Paul affirms that we are the temple of our holy God. Through the blood of Christ, you and I are purified and made righteous so God's presence can now dwell within us. We are no longer kept out of the Holy of Holies and God's spirit actually lives in us! As believers, we have continuous access to his presence. What was lost at the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3, has been restored through Jesus.



New Heaven and Earth

Jesus will return one day and there will be a new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21:3 says, "Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." The world will no longer be broken from sin. God will restore everything and those that have trusted in the blood of Jesus will enjoy eternity in the presence of our Creator.



Check out these other teaching tools!

The Gospel in Color Poem

*This is the gospel, the good news he gave:
God sent his son to die and to save!
Black is for sin that leads to death.
Red is for blood shed at Christ's last breath.
White is for pure, we're now washed clean.
Blue is for baptism, our obedience seen.
Green is for grow as we seek to know.
Gold is for glory, God's presence will glow!*

The Bible Path Song Lyrics

*God gave us his Word, God gave us his story
Let's read the truth, and discover his glory
And it goes like this*

*Creation and fall, to Abraham's call,
From children are slaves to wilderness days
They conquered the land with judges at hand
And they asked for a king to rule everything

But idols defile, divide, and exile
Repent and return, there's so much to learn!
(repeat chorus)*

*Wonder and wait for the prophecies fate
From Jesus is born to rejected and scorned
He conquered our sin, he rose again
He is King of all Kings and he rules everything

And the church was born. That's you and me.
Let's be the light for the world to see
Because he'll come back again x2*

WE LEARN THIS POEM ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS TO HELP TEACH STUDENTS THE GOSPEL IN COLOR, A SIMPLE WAY TO UNDERSTAND SALVATION. READ MORE ABOUT IT ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES.

THE BIBLE PATH HELPS STUDENTS SEE THE BIBLE AS ONE BIG STORY THAT POINTS TO JESUS AND TEACHES US HOW TO RESPOND. THIS IS A YEAR ROUND FOCUS IN CALVARY'S KIDS. YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT IT ON PAGES 22-24.

The G O S P E L in Color

Sin

Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23

**WE HAVE ALL SINNED
AND FALL SHORT OF
THE GLORY OF GOD,
AND THE WAGES OF
SIN IS DEATH.**

**BECAUSE OF OUR SIN,
WE ARE SEPARATED
FROM OUR HOLY GOD
AND DESTINED TO AN
ETERNAL DEATH.**

Blood

Romans 5:8
Eph. 1:7
Col. 1:20

**JESUS BECAME
THE PERFECT,
ONCE AND FOR ALL
SACRIFICE TO PAY
THE PENALTY OF
OUR SINS.**

**HE DIED IN OUR
PLACE AND ROSE
AGAIN. OUR SINS
ARE FORGIVEN
BECAUSE OF HIS
ATONING BLOOD.**

Clean

1 John 1:7
Isaiah 1:18

**CHRIST FULFILLS
ALL OF THE RITUAL
AND CLEANSING
LAWS GOD GAVE IN
LEVITICUS.**

**THROUGH THE
BLOOD OF CHRIST,
WE ARE MADE
CLEAN AND
RIGHTEOUS
BEFORE A HOLY
GOD.**

Baptism

Romans 6:4
Matthew 28:19
Acts 2:38

**WE ARE CALLED
TO REPENT AND
BE BAPTIZED IN
THE NAME OF
JESUS CHRIST.
THIS PROFESSION
OF FAITH
SYMBOLICALLY
REPRESENTS THE
DEATH OF SIN
AND OUR
RESURRECTION IN
CHRIST.**

Growth

Eph. 4:15
John 15:5
2 Peter 3:18

**CHRISTIANS ARE
CALLED TO
CONTINUALLY
GROW IN
UNDERSTANDING
AND APPLY GOD'S
GRACE AND TRUTH
IN OUR LIVES.**

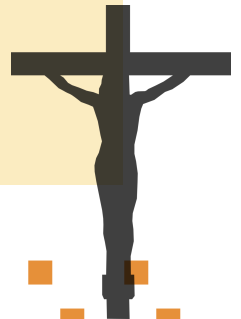
**WHEN WE ABIDE
IN HIM, WE ARE
ABLE TO PRODUCE
FRUIT AND
BECOME MORE
LIKE HIM.**

Glory

John 3:16
1 John 5:11-12

**THROUGH CHRIST,
GOD GIVES US
ETERNAL LIFE IN
HIS GLORIOUS
PRESENCE.**

**WE HAVE THE
PROMISE AND
HOPE OF LIFE
AFTER DEATH.**



THE BIBLE IS ONE BIG STORY THAT POINTS TO JESUS



Creation

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Genesis

KEY PEOPLE:

Adam and Eve

God Created the heavens and the earth, and he intended to dwell with his creation. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered the world, but God promised to restore creation. Humanity's sinful condition is further revealed through the flood and tower.



Patriarchs

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Genesis

KEY PEOPLE:

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & his 12 sons

God's plan of redemption begins with choosing Abraham to be the father of a great nation. He is promised land and that through him all nations would be blessed. Eventually, Abraham's descendants (called Israelites) end up in slavery for 430 years in Egypt.



Wandering

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy

KEY PEOPLE:

Moses, Aaron Joshua

The Israelites were rescued from slavery by God, but they don't obey or have faith in his power. As a result, they wander in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the promised land. Along the way, they experience God's guidance, correction, and grace.



Conquest

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Joshua

KEY PEOPLE:

Joshua

After the death of Moses, God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites and began conquering the land promised to Abraham in Canaan, beginning with Jericho. But the Canaanite people and their religion would eventually influence the Israelites.



Judges

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Judges

KEY PEOPLE:

Gideon,
Samson,
Deborah

God appointed judges to rule over the Israelites, but many judges were corrupt and unfaithful. God continued to work in and through the Israelites to fulfill his promises despite the failures and lack of faithfulness among the people and their leaders.



Kingdom

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles

KEY PEOPLE:

Samuel, Saul,
David,
Solomon

The people asked for a human king to rule over them. Only three kings into the monarchy, the nation of Israel was divided. Many kings were unfaithful to God and led the people astray, worshipping the false Canaanite gods and idols.

AND TEACHES US HOW TO RESPOND

THE BIBLE IS ONE BIG STORY THAT POINTS TO JESUS

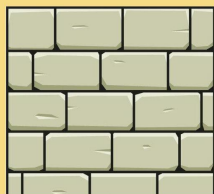


Exile

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:
Prophets

KEY PEOPLE:
Isaiah,
Jeremiah,
Daniel,
Ezekiel

Idolatry and sin led to the destruction and exile of first the northern kingdom of Israel (fell to Assyria) and the southern kingdom of Judah (fell to Babylon).

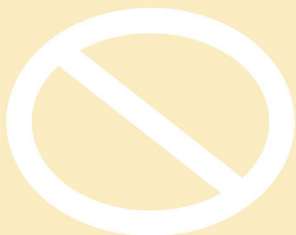


Return

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:
Prophets

KEY PEOPLE:
Zerubbabel,
Ezra,
Nehemiah

Eventually, the remnant of the southern kingdom of Judah was allowed to return after repentance. The Temple and the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt.



Silence

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

KEY PEOPLE:

The 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament is referred to as the Intertestamental Period. There were no prophets during this time, but God was still at work preparing for the coming of Christ.



Gospels

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Matthew,
Mark, Luke,
& John

KEY PEOPLE:

Jesus & the
12 Disciples

Jesus, the Son of God, came into the broken world to save sinners. Through signs and miracles, he proved his deity, taught his disciples, compassionately cared for crowds, and most importantly, he died on the cross to pay the debt of our sins and victoriously rose.



Church

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Acts &
Letters

KEY PEOPLE:

Paul & the
Apostles

Jesus' disciples obeyed his command to "Go and make disciples of all nations." Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they began preaching and teaching all that Jesus had told them.



Restoration

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Revelation

KEY PEOPLE:

Jesus & John

We are still waiting eagerly and patiently for the final restoration when Jesus returns. There will be no more death and no more mourning in the new heaven and earth.

AND TEACHES US HOW TO RESPOND