6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 1 - Israel in the Wilderness

Introduction

WELCOME everyone! I am excited to be teaching you this year. We are going to look at lessons this year about the tabernacle. Who can tell me anything about the tabernacle?

Just a few classroom "rules" to start …

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

Background

- Israel had now left Egypt and they are on their way to the Promised Land.
- They didn't live in a fixed place (ie. like our houses), they lived in tents and moved from place to place.
- God had given Moses certain laws and commands the people had to follow. This helped to keep things organised and in order.
- They were learning about the God of their fathers and how to worship Him.

Camp Organisation (Numbers 2, 3, 10)

- Israel always moved in a certain order – ie. Judah led the way, Ark carried in the middle of the marching people.
- Each tribe had a set place they were to camp, once they stopped. This was to keep everything in order with the approximately 2 million people!
- Camp divided into four parts and three tribes in each part. Formed a square.
- The tabernacle was in the centre of the square. Between the tabernacle and the tribes were the Levites, and Moses and Aaron.
- Each tribe also had a banner … Judah ⇨ lion, Ephraim ⇨ ox, Reuben ⇨ man, Dan ⇨ eagle (according to tradition – we are not told specifically in the Bible).

Do "Camp of Israel" flap for lapbook.

– ***NORTH*** *- Dan, Asher, Naphtali*	*Merari*
– ***EAST*** *- Judah, Issachar Zebulon*	*Moses and Aaron*
– ***SOUTH*** *- Reuben, Simeon, Gad*	*Kohath*
– ***WEST*** *- Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin*	*Gershon*

Camp Movement

- Angel of God went before the people to show the way (Exodus 13v21-22).
- Pillar of cloud by day – pillar of fire by night (to give them light).

- Pillar sat above the tabernacle – not sure where it sat before the tabernacle was built (2 years after they left Egypt, Exodus 40v17).
- When pillar of cloud / fire moved from tabernacle, this was when the Israelites had to pack up and move (Exodus 40v36-38).
- Each family of the Levites had specific work to do in packing up and carrying the tabernacle:
  - Gershon and Merari … took down the building and wall of the court. Packed it into covered wagons.
  - Aaron and his sons covered the items of furniture.
  - Family of Kohath carried the furniture items on their shoulders (Numbers 7v9).
- All the tribes moved in a certain order – Judah always went first (Numbers 10v14-28).

Why was a Tabernacle Needed?

- The tabernacle was in the centre of the camp … a special place set apart for God.
- A large area was left around the outside of the tabernacle where Israel could come together to hear the words of God.
- This was the place the people could bring their offerings to God.
- This was also the place where the priests and Levites worked and offered the offering on behalf of the people.
- We are going to deal with the tabernacle in more detail in our lessons for the rest of the week!

Lessons

- Israelite camp needed to be organised in order to operate properly.
- The layout of the four-square camp points forward to the Holy City in Revelation 21.
- Tabernacle was at the centre – God wants to be the centre (focus) of our lives.

Lapbook items

- *Camp of Israel triangle flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 2 - Purpose of the Tabernacle

Introduction and Review of Day 1

- Who remembers what we talked about yesterday? How was the camp of Israel laid out? Why couldn't everyone just camp wherever? Where was the tabernacle?
- Today we are going to look at some more specific details about the tabernacle.

Special Plans

- A few months into the wilderness, Moses went up Mt Sinai and God gave him specific instructions how to build the tabernacle … down to every detail and measurement. The plans were designed by God.
- Moses had to make sure the instructions were carefully followed. *"And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."* Exodus 25v40.

Purpose of the Tabernacle

- So God could dwell with His people. *"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."* Exodus 25v8
- So Israel could learn the right way to come to God.
- God's "dwelling place" on earth.

Donations from a Willing Heart

- Moses explained to the Israelites the plan for building the tabernacle.
- The Israelites were asked to provide the materials for the tent … with a willing heart!
- Exodus 35v4-9 gives a list of the items that were donated:
  - Gold, silver, brass
  - Blue, purple, scarlet yarn
  - Goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, badgers' skins
  - Shittim wood
  - Olive oil, spices
  - Precious stones
  - Fine twined linen
- Everyone was so generous in their donations that they gave more than what was needed! (Exodus 36v5-6). This pleased God – God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9v7)!
- Where did the materials come from? Some from Egypt (precious metals, stones), some from the wilderness (wood, animal skins).

Building the Tabernacle

- The tabernacle was built as a temporary structure (tent) that could be packed up and moved.
- Skilled craftsmen and women were needed to help build and make everything.
- God chose two men to be in charge of looking after the construction … Bezaleel and Aholiab.

- Also special priestly garments that needed to be made … and special garments for the High Priest.
- This was a project that involved a large group of people … all working together!

Layout of the Tabernacle

- The building itself wasn't huge. It sat inside a courtyard area that was a larger area.

	Length	Width	Height
Courtyard	100 cubits 50 metres	50 cubits 25 metres	?
Tabernacle	30 cubits 15 metres	10 cubits 5 metres	10 cubits 5 metres
Holy Place	20 cubits 10 metres	10 cubits 5 metres	10 cubits 5 metres
Most Holy Place	10 cubits 5 metres	10 cubits 5 metres	10 cubits 5 metres

Courtyard

- The courtyard was enclosed by a wall of fine white linen with silver hooks … attached to pillars of brass.
- One entrance to the courtyard … on the east side.
- Entrance curtains made of linen, embroidered with blue, purple and scarlet.

Holy Place / Most Holy Place

- Four walls (or possibly frames) made of shittim wood, covered in gold.
- Curtains were draped over the top to make a ceiling and sides to make walls … curtain of fine linen, embroidered with blue, purple, scarlet (and cherubim??)
- On top of the whole building were animals' skins … goat's hair, then rams' skins dyed red and badgers' skin on the top … total of 4 layers (including the linen).
- Entrance to the tabernacle at the east … curtain of fine linen, embroidered with blue, purple and scarlet.
- Two rooms … Holy Place and Most Holy Place.
- Holy Place and Most Holy Place divided by a curtain called a veil … curtain of fine linen, embroidered with blue, purple, scarlet and cherubim.

Lessons

- God had specific instructions for Moses to build the tabernacle. He also has given us specific instructions of how we should live … in the Bible.
- God only wanted people to give who had a willing heart. *"Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things."* Deuteronomy 28v47.
- Those who worked on the tabernacle had to do careful work … skilled work. We also have to give our best to God.

Lapbook items

- *Purpose of the tabernacle … pentagon shutter flap.*
- *The people gave with a willing heart … heart flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 3 - Items in the Courtyard

Introduction and Review of Day 2

- Who was given the special plans for building the tabernacle? What was the purpose of having the tabernacle? Where was the tabernacle situated in the camp? Who can tell me anything about the tabernacle that we learnt yesterday?
- Today we are going to look at some more specific details about the courtyard area and the two items of furniture that were located outside in the courtyard.

Entering the Courtyard

- Entry to the tabernacle was through curtains on the east side. Only one entry.
- This large area around the Most Holy Place and Holy Place was called the courtyard.
- It was used for the priests to offer sacrifices that the people brought to them.

Altar of Burnt Offering (Exodus 38v1-7)

- First item you came to after entering the courtyard was the altar of burnt offering.
- Box made of shittim wood (acacia wood), overlaid / covered with brass.
- 5 cubits long x 5 cubits wide x 3 cubits high (about 2.5m x 2.5m x 1.5m).
- Brass grate underneath the altar to help the fire to burn and for ashes to fall.
- Horns on each of the 4 corners … animal sacrifices were placed on the altar and tied to these horns.
- Fire under the altar was first lit by God (Leviticus 9v24) and it was never to go out (Leviticus 6v13).
- There seems to be a suggestion there was a ramp made from dirt that went up the altar on the south side?
- All the shovels, pots, basins, forks, fire pans used for the sacrifices were made of brass.

Laver (Exodus 30v18-21)

- The laver was between the altar of burnt offering and the entrance to the Holy Place.
- Very large basin made of brass. Woman donated their mirrors to make the laver (Exodus 38v8).
- We aren't given a lot of detail of what the laver actually looked like. Appears to have been up on a base of some kind.
- Priests used it to wash their hands and feet – before they served and while they served – continual washing.

Lessons

- We don't offer sacrifices to God now … but God wants our whole lives given to Him in dedication and obedience.
- *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* Romans 12v1
- Altar of burnt offering – first item you came to … shows we have to sacrifice / get rid of those bad things in our lives that stop us from worshipping God with our whole heart.
- Laver – we are to be clean in body and mind. God's word cleanses our hearts – continual washing.
- *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."* Psalm 119v9

Lapbook items

- *Altar of burnt offering flap.*
- *Laver flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 4 - Items in the Holy Place

Introduction and Review of Day 3

- What part of the tabernacle did we learn about yesterday? What two items of furniture did we cover? What did the priests use the laver for?
- Today we are going to move into the Holy Place and the three items that were found there.

Inside the Holy Place

- A curtain was at the entrance to the Holy Place.
- Priests washed at the laver before coming to do their duties in the Holy Place.

Lampstand (Exodus 37v17-24)

- The lampstand was on the left hand side of the Holy Place.
- Made of pure gold.
- Had a centre stem and 3 branches on each side … total of 7 lamps.
- The lamps had to be filled with olive oil night and morning.
- The children of Israel supplied the olive oil … by beating olives (Exodus 27v20-21, Leviticus 24v2).
- Provided the only light inside the Holy Place.

Table of Shewbread (Exodus 37v10-16)

- The table of shewbread was on the right hand side of the Holy Place (opposite the lampstand).
- The small table was made of shittim wood and covered with gold.
- 12 unleavened loaves of bread (called "shewbread") were on the table … representing the 12 tribes.
- Frankincense was also on the table … and various other vessels (spoons, dishes, bowls).
- At the end of the week, the priests ate the loaves and fresh ones were put there (Leviticus 24v5-9). The frankincense was burned on the altar of incense.

Altar of Incense (Exodus 37v25-28)

- The altar of incense was at the back of the room, in front of the veil.
- It was a small altar … 45cm square and 90cm high. Much smaller than the altar of burnt offering.
- Made of shittim wood and covered with gold.
- It had four horns and was decorated around the top with a golden crown.
- It had staves either side so it could be easily carried.

- Priests burned incense on it morning and evening. Coals were brought in from the altar of burnt offering.
- The incense had a sweet perfume that ascended to heaven.
- The incense represented prayer … *"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense…"* Psalm 141v2.

The Veil

- The curtain that separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place was called the veil.
- It was a beautiful curtain … made of fine twined linen, embroidered with blue, purple, scarlet and cherubim.

Coverings

- The Holy Place and Most Holy Place had four layers of material:
    - Curtains of linen
    - Goat's hair
    - Rams' skins dyed red
    - Badgers' skin on the top (protection from water)

Lessons

- The lampstand is a symbol of God's word and the direction it should give us in our lives. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* Psalm 119v105.
- Jesus said he was the "light of the world".
- Our lives should be like a "light" shining in a dark world (Matthew 5v14-16).
- Praying morning and evening must become a daily habit for us (ie. Christ, Daniel, Nehemiah).

Lapbook items

- *Lampstand flap.*
- *Table of shewbread flap.*
- *Altar of incense flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 5 - Items in the Most Holy Place

Introduction and Review of Day 4

- We covered the Most Holy Place yesterday. What 3 items were inside the Most Holy Place? Can anyone give me a lesson from any of these items?
- Today we are going to move into the Most Holy Place.

Inside the Most Holy Place

- The Most Holy Place was like a cube … 10 cubits long by 10 cubits wide by 10 cubits high.
- Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place … once a year on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16v2).
- God's glory shone in the Most Holy Place and His voice could be heard here.
- There was only one thing in the Most Holy Place … the ark of the covenant.

Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 37v1-9)

- This was the most important item of all! It was here that the voice of God could be heard, and it was the place of God's dwelling.
- It was a simple chest made of shittim wood and covered with gold inside and out.
- Size: 1.125m x 67.5cm x 67.5cm high (Exodus 25v10-22).
- It had a crown / moulding of gold around the top and four rings for carrying staves.
- There was a lid of gold called the Mercy Seat … made of pure gold.
- There were two cherubim of gold on each side of the lid. The cherubim were made from one solid piece of gold.
- The cherubim had outstretched wings and their faces looked down at the Mercy Seat. Possibly the face of a man and lion on one, and ox and eagle on the other.
- The glory of God shone between the cherubim.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant

- God told Moses to put the following three things inside the Ark:
  - Two tables of stone that had the 10 commandments written on them (Exodus 25v21, 40v20)
  - Golden pot of manna (Exodus 16v33-34)
  - Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17v10)
  - See also Hebrews 9v4
- Originally only the two tables of stone were in the Ark. The pot of manna and Aaron's rod were added later.

Lessons

- The Most Holy Place represented heaven … God's dwelling place.
- Only one man has entered heaven … our great High Priest, Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is at God's right hand now.

Lapbook items

- *Ark of the covenant flap.*
- *Items inside the ark of the covenant flap.*
- *Layout of tabernacle flap.*
- *Facts about the tabernacle flap.*

BIBLE MARKING - Items in the Tabernacle

- Exodus 25v10 Ark of the Covenant
- Exodus 25v23 Table of Shewbread
- Exodus 25v31 Candlestick / Lampstand
- Exodus 26v1 Ten curtains
- Exodus 26v7 Curtains of goats' hair
- Exodus 26v14 A covering for the tent of rams' skin dyed red
- Exodus 26v14 A covering above of badgers' skin
- Exodus 26v15 Boards
- Exodus 26v36 Hanging for the door
- Exodus 27v1 Altar of Burnt Offering
- Exodus 27v9 Hangings for the court
- Exodus 30v1 Altar of Incense
- Exodus 30v18 Laver

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 6 - Levites, Priests and High Priest (Roles and Garments)

Introduction and Review of Day 5

- What was the last item we learned about yesterday? What three things were inside the Ark?
- Today we are going to look at the clothes that the priests and High Priest wore.

Levites

- God chose the tribe of Levi out of all the tribes to be His special servants.
- Levites were teachers and helpers.
- They looked after the holy things of the tabernacle and taught Israel about God (Numbers 8v19).
- They had to study the Law so they would know it well and be able to teach it to others.
- Levites also packed up the tabernacle when it was time to move to another place and they carried it.
- Levites camped around the tabernacle – like a "fence" that protected the tabernacle.

The Priests

- From the tribe of Levi, the family of Aaron was chosen to be priests (Numbers 3v10).
- Only the priests were allowed inside the tabernacle.
- Some of their jobs included:
  - Make sure there was enough oil in the lampstand.
  - Put fresh bread on the table of shewbread each week.
  - Offer the daily burnt offerings morning and evening.
  - Burn incense on the altar of incense.
  - Keep the fire burning on the altar of burnt offering.
  - Offer the sacrifices that the people bought to be offered.

Priestly Garments

- Priests wore white linen coat.
- Girdle / sash of fine twined linen with blue, purple, scarlet needlework.

The High Priest

- Only the sons of Aaron could become a High Priest.
- There was only one High Priest at a time.
- It was usually given to the oldest in the family, but there were some cases where it wasn't.
- The High Priest was in charge of the all the priests and Levites.
- Only the High Priest could go into the Most Holy Place … once a year on the Day of Atonement.

High Priest's Garments (Exodus 28)

- The High Priest wore special garments, in addition to what the priests wore.
- **White linen coat / tunic** (woven, one piece)
- **Blue linen robe / coat:**
  - Binding around the neck to stop it from tearing.
  - Came to the knee.
  - Sleeveless.
  - Blue, purple, scarlet pomegranates on hem, gold bells between pomegranates.
- **Ephod** … on top of the white and blue linen coats:
  - Made of gold, blue, purple, scarlet entwined in linen.
  - Like an apron
- **Girdle** / **sash** tied around the waist on top of the ephod:
  - Made of the same material as the ephod.
  - About three fingers wide and perhaps reached almost to the floor.
- An **onyx stone** in a frame of gold was on each shoulder.
  - The names of six tribes engraved on each stone … in order of birth.
- **Breastplate** worn on the chest:
  - Square of gold, blue, purple, scarlet and fine twined linen.
  - 4 rows of 3 stones / gemstones.
  - Each gemstone was engraved with the name of one of the tribes … in order that they camped.
  - Two gold rings and chains at the top of the breastplate … attached to the shoulder pieces.
  - Two gold rings at the bottom of the breastplate … blue lacing attached to two rings on the ephod above the girdle / sash.
  - Urim and Thummin in the breastplate.
- **Cap / turban / mitre** on the head:
  - Had a gold plate at the front of it, engraved with "Holiness to Yahweh".
  - Gold plate tied with a blue lace.

Lessons

- The special garments of the High Priest set him apart from everyone else in Israel … he had a very important role to do.

Lapbook items

- *Garments of the High Priest flap.*
- *Tabernacle origami flap.*
- *Tabernacle sequencing game.*

Details for flaps inside the lapbook:

Item	Location	Made of	Purpose
Altar of Burnt Offering	Courtyard	Shittim wood covered with brass	To offer animal sacrifices that the people brought.
Laver	Courtyard	Brass	Priests washed their hands and feet in the water before doing their jobs in the tabernacle.
Lampstand	Holy Place	Pure gold	Provide light inside the Holy Place so the priests could do their jobs.
Table of Shewbread	Holy Place	Shittim wood covered with gold	*On the table: 12 unleavened loaves of bread, bowls of frankincense, various other vessels (spoons, dishes, bowls).*
Altar of Incense	Holy Place	Shittim wood covered with gold	Priests burnt incense on this altar every morning and evening.
Ark of the Covenant	Most Holy Place	Shittim wood covered with gold (inside and out)	*The High Priest was only allowed into the Most Holy Place (where the ark of the covenant was) once a year.*