

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Exodus 25–30, God commands His people to build the tabernacle so He can dwell among them, showing His deep desire for relationship. Every detail from the gate to the mercy seat was intentional and revealed how sinful people could approach a holy God. Yet the tabernacle was never the final solution; it was a shadow pointing forward to something greater. Each element ultimately points to Jesus, who fulfills every requirement that once stood between us and God. What was once distant, restricted, and mediated is now open, personal, and complete through Christ...Hallelujah!

MAIN POINTS

- 1. God Desires to Dwell with You (Exodus 25:8; John 1:14).** God's plan was always relational, not just ritual. The tabernacle was placed in the center of the camp; God is central, not peripheral. Jesus "tabernacled" among us, bringing God's presence near in a personal way.
- 2. The Tabernacle Shows the Way to God, Through Jesus.** The Gate – Jesus Is the Entrance (Exodus 27:16; John 10:9), The Bronze Altar – Jesus Is the Sacrifice (Exodus 27:1–4; Hebrews 10:10–12), The Cleansing Basin – Jesus Cleanses You from Sin (Exodus 30:17–18; 1 John 1:7–9), The Lampstand – Jesus Is Your Light (Exodus 25:31–32; John 8:12), The Bread – Jesus Is Your Sustenance (Exodus 25:23, 30; John 6:35), The Veil – Jesus Gives You Access (Exodus 26:31–33; Matthew 27:50–51), The Mercy Seat – Jesus Is Your Atonement (Exodus 25:17–22; Romans 3:23–25).
- 3. Jesus Opens the Way for a Personal Relationship with God (Hebrews 8:5–6).** The tabernacle was a shadow; Jesus is the reality. The old system required repeated sacrifices; Jesus finished the work. You are now invited into a real, ongoing relationship with God.

Big Idea: What the tabernacle required; Jesus fulfilled.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why did God require such detailed instructions for the tabernacle?** *Possible Answer:* God is holy and cares how He is worshiped. The details show that approaching Him is serious and must be done His way (Exodus 25:9; Hebrews 8:5).
- 2. How does the tabernacle point to Jesus as the only way to God?** *Possible Answer:* Every element, gate, sacrifice, cleansing, and access finds its fulfillment in Jesus, showing that He alone provides the complete way to God (John 14:6; Hebrews 10:19–22).
- 3. Where in your life are you trying to approach God on your own terms instead of through Jesus?** *Possible Answer:* You may rely on good behavior or effort instead of trusting fully in Christ's finished work (Ephesians 2:8–9).
- 4. What is one area where you need to experience Jesus' cleansing today?** *Possible Answer:* Confessing sin honestly allows you to receive forgiveness and restoration (1 John 1:9).
- 5. What would it look like for you to let God "move into your life" more fully this week?** *Possible Answer:* Prioritizing time with Him, surrendering control, and inviting Him into daily decisions (James 4:8).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

The tabernacle reminds you that sin separates you from a holy God and that access to Him requires sacrifice, cleansing, and mediation. But the good news is that Jesus has fulfilled every requirement; you don't have to earn your way to God because He has made a way for you.

If you have never trusted Christ, turn from your sin (repent) and place your faith in Him alone for salvation (Acts 3:19; Romans 10:9). If you are a believer, don't drift into simply acknowledging God; draw near to Him with confidence, confess your sin, and live in the freedom Jesus purchased for you (Hebrews 4:16). This is your invitation: come to God through Jesus and let Him dwell fully in your life.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – God Wants to Be with You

Key Verse: *“And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” (Exodus 25:8)*

Reflection: God’s heart has always been to dwell with His people, not remain distant from them. The tabernacle showed His presence in a specific place, but through Jesus, His presence is no longer confined to a building. As a believer, His Spirit now dwells in your heart; you carry His presence with you wherever you go.

Application Question: What is one area of your life where God is not at the center right now? *Possible Answer:* It may be your schedule, priorities, or decisions inviting God into that area begins with surrender and intentional focus (Matthew 6:33).

Prayer Response: Lord, thank You for not being distant but choosing to dwell within me. Help me to live with an awareness of Your presence today and to place You at the center of my life, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Tuesday – Jesus Is the Only Way In

Key Verse: *“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...” (John 10:9)*

Reflection: The tabernacle had one gate, reminding you that access to God is not based on personal preference but on God’s design. Jesus makes it clear that He is that one way. You don’t earn your way to God; you enter through Christ.

Application Question: Are you trusting fully in Jesus for your relationship with God, or relying on your own efforts? *Possible Answer:* You may try to earn God’s approval through good works, but salvation comes only through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Prayer Response: Jesus, thank You for being the only way to the Father. Forgive me for the times I try to rely on myself instead of trusting You. Help me to rest fully in Your finished work, in Your Name, Amen.

Wednesday – Jesus Paid the Price for Your Sin

Key Verse: *“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 10:12)*

Reflection: The bronze altar reminds you that sin is serious and requires sacrifice. In the Old Testament, sacrifices were repeated again and again but Jesus offered Himself once and for all. His sacrifice fully satisfies God’s justice and secures your forgiveness.

Application Question: Do you truly believe your sins are fully forgiven in Christ? *Possible Answer:* You may still carry guilt, but Jesus’ sacrifice is complete; there is no condemnation for those in Him (Romans 8:1).

Prayer Response: Father, thank You for sending Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for my sin. Help me to live in the freedom of forgiveness and not carry what You have already taken away, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Thursday – Jesus Cleanses and Leads You

Key Verse: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us... and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

Reflection: Before entering deeper into the tabernacle, the priests had to wash, reminding you that cleansing is necessary. Jesus not only forgives your sin but continually cleanses you as you walk with Him. He also becomes your light, guiding you out of darkness and into truth.

Application Question: Is there a sin you need to confess and bring into the light today? *Possible Answer:* Confession brings healing and restores fellowship with God (Psalm 32:5).

Prayer Response: Lord, search my heart and reveal anything that needs to be confessed. Thank You for Your grace that cleanses me again and again. Lead me in Your truth and light today, in Jesus’s Name, Amen.

Friday – Jesus Gives You Full Access to God

Key Verse: *“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” (Matthew 27:51)*

Reflection: The veil once separated people from God’s presence, allowing only limited access. When Jesus died, that veil was torn, opening the way for you to come directly to God. You no longer have to stand at a distance; you are invited into a close, personal relationship.

Application Question: Are you living like you have full access to God, or are you keeping your distance? *Possible Answer:* You may hesitate to approach God, but He invites you to come boldly through Jesus (Hebrews 4:16).

Prayer Response: God, thank You for giving me direct access through Jesus. Help me to draw near to You with confidence and not hold back in fear or doubt. I want to know You more deeply, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.