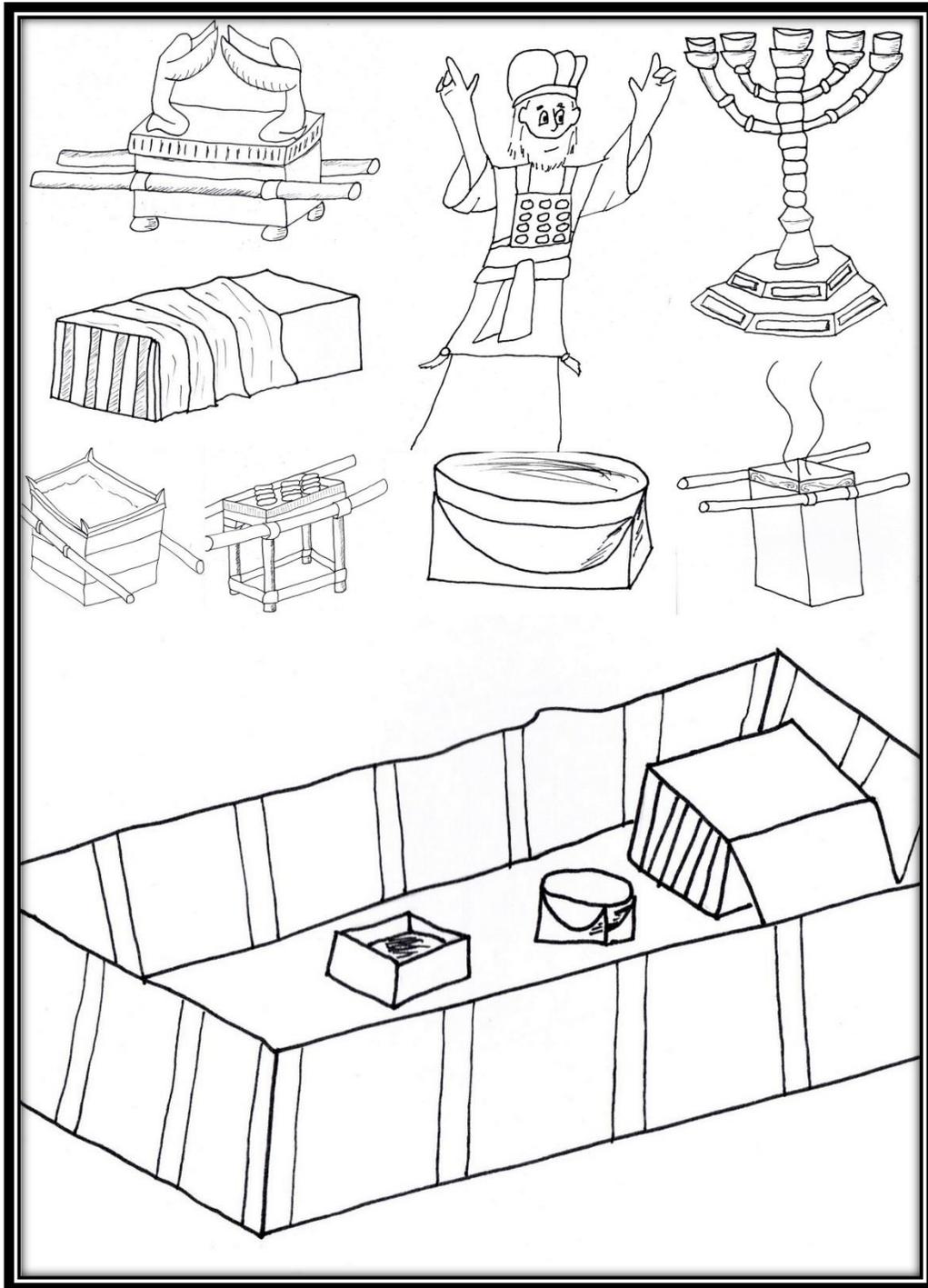


# The Tabernacle

## How One Building Points to Jesus

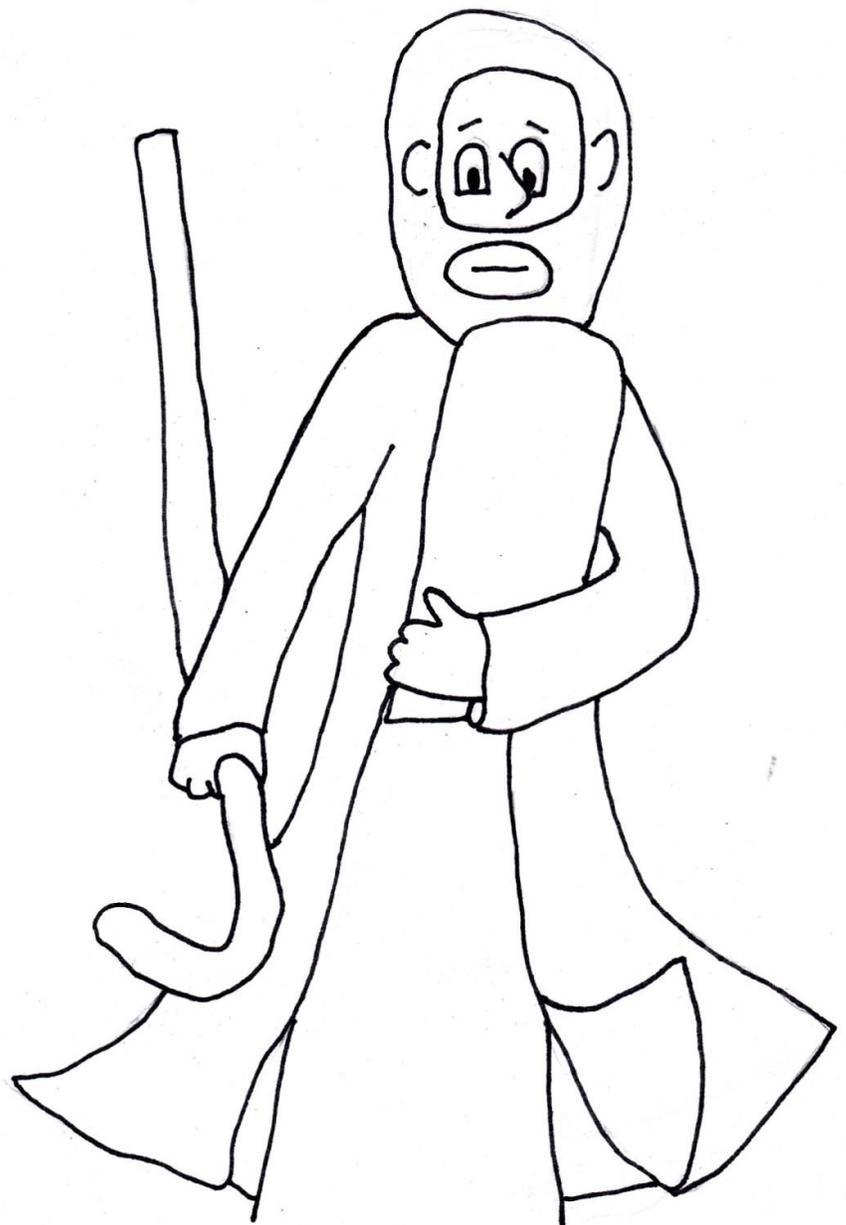


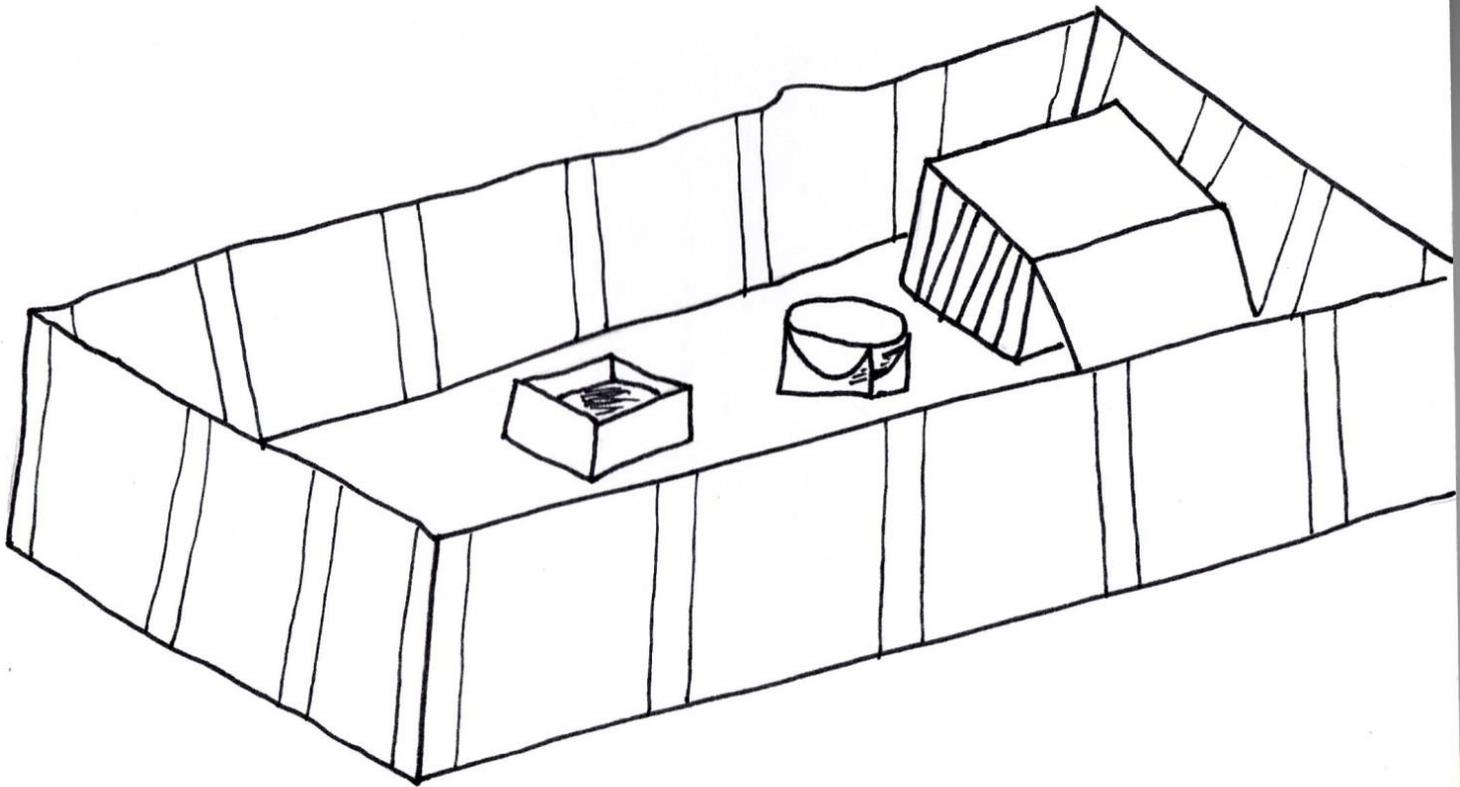
After Moses came down from Mount Sinai he gathered the Israelites and told them part of God's plan. "We will build a house for God. A place for us to worship God and sacrifice to Him."

Moses called for volunteers and donations to build the church. Two men stepped forward and volunteered to plan and build everything.

The Israelites gave their gold, and fine linen, their time and talents. They gave until Moses said, "No more, we have no more room to store your gifts."

Then they built and built and built.





First they built the outer courtyard. A place to keep the people of God separate from the rest of the world and for them to prepare to worship God.

God called the Israelites to be pure, and set apart for Him. Anyone could approach the tabernacle, but only those giving sacrifices could come in.

Just as God calls everyone to Him, but not everyone responds.



When the Israelites went inside to sacrifice they were to wash their hands and their face. This reminded them they were dirty, and needed

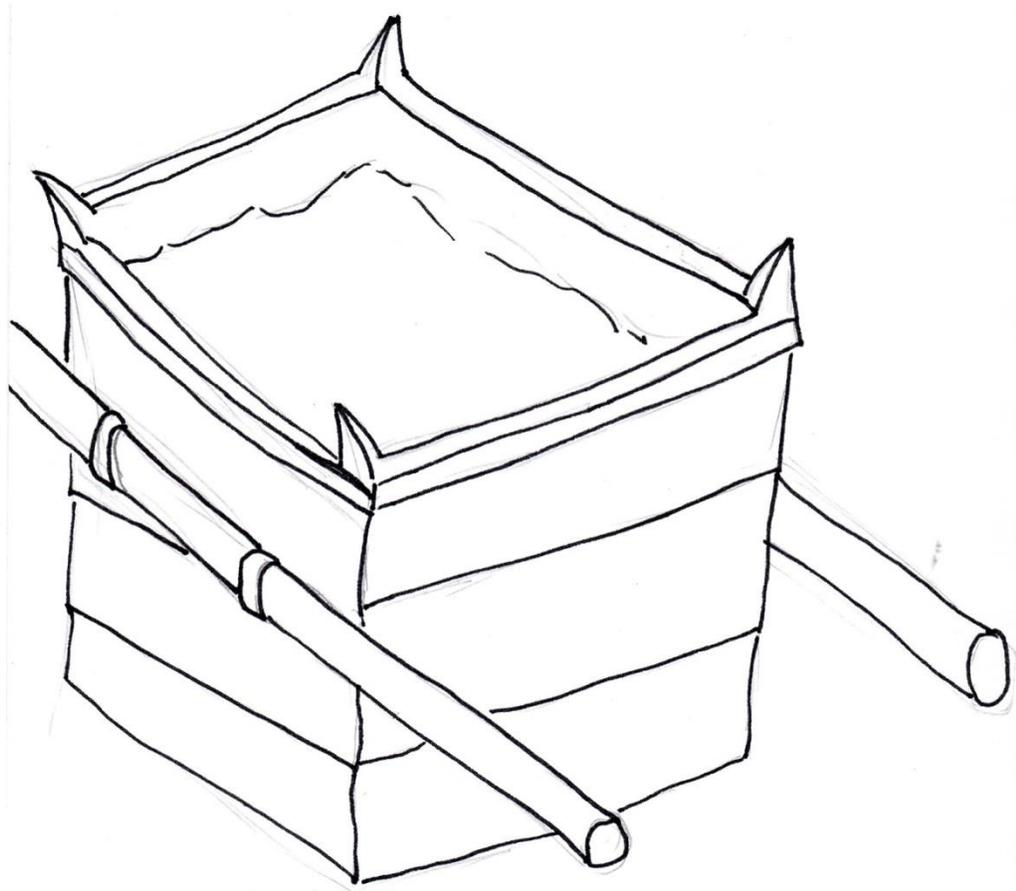
someone to save them from sin.

God gave them many different rules and regulations about washing, what to eat, when to eat. All of this was to show them they were set apart for God.

So the Israelites can show the world they are different and be a shining light to the world for God. Just as Christians are now called to do the same thing.

Israelites would approach the bronze altar and would make their sacrifice there. They sacrificed an innocent lamb without blemish. God is showing them how only blood can wash away sin. In Hebrews 9:22 it says “without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness.”

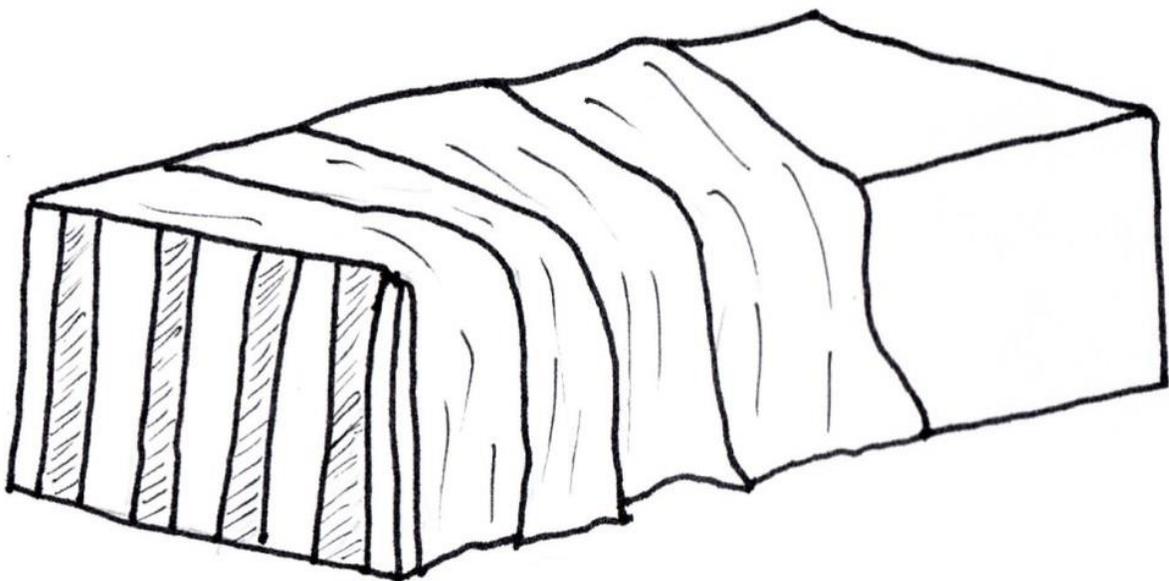
But, a lamb was not sufficient. They continued to sin, and continued to need forgiveness. They needed a Savior, a Messiah to come and save them.

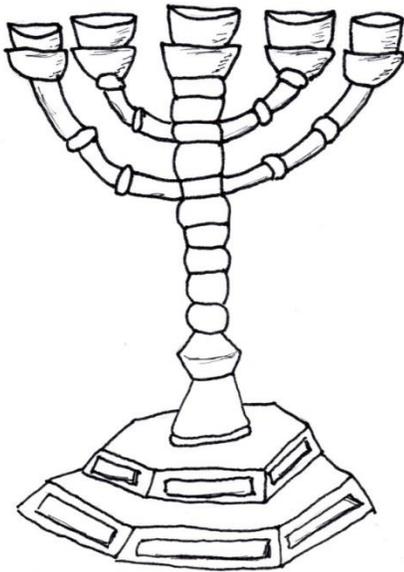


The tabernacle itself was a large tent with two parts. The building of the tabernacle was built and had 4 curtains over it.

The first is made of linen, a fabric that takes time to make beautifully. The second is made of goat hair, the next is made of rams skin died red, and the final layer is made of goat skins.

The outside of the temple is not what God was looking at. Just as God does not look at the outside of man, but looks at the heart, God dwelled inside the tabernacle.

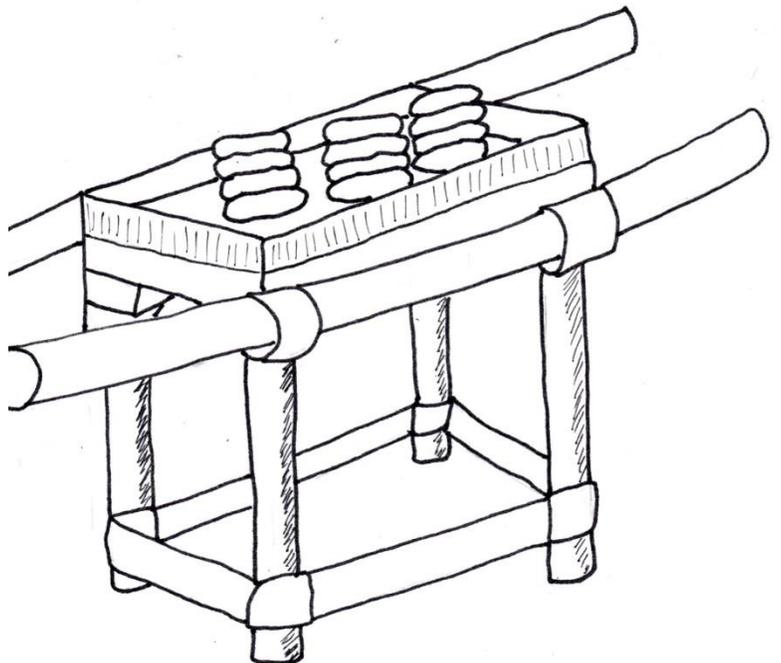




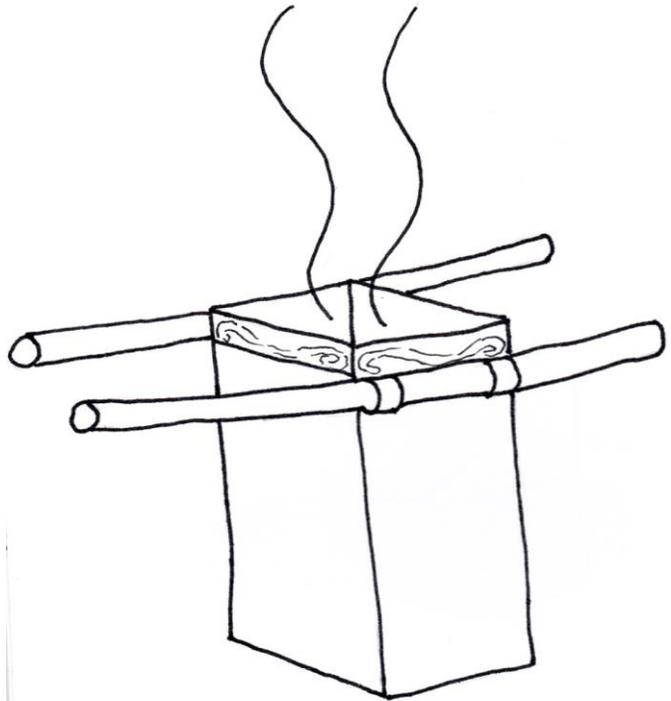
The first room in the tabernacle is the Holy place. There is only a few pieces of furniture.

First there is the menorah, which shines forth to give light to the tent, as God gives us light.

Next is the table for the show bread. Each Saturday the priest would bring twelve loaves of bread, some oil, and water. These were to remind the Israelites how God cared for them in the wilderness. It was not for God to eat, but to remind the Israelites how God cares for them.



Finally is the Golden altar to burn incense. This reminded the people how the sweet smells of the incense are like the sweet sound of prayers rising to God. He enjoys them and wants to hear them.



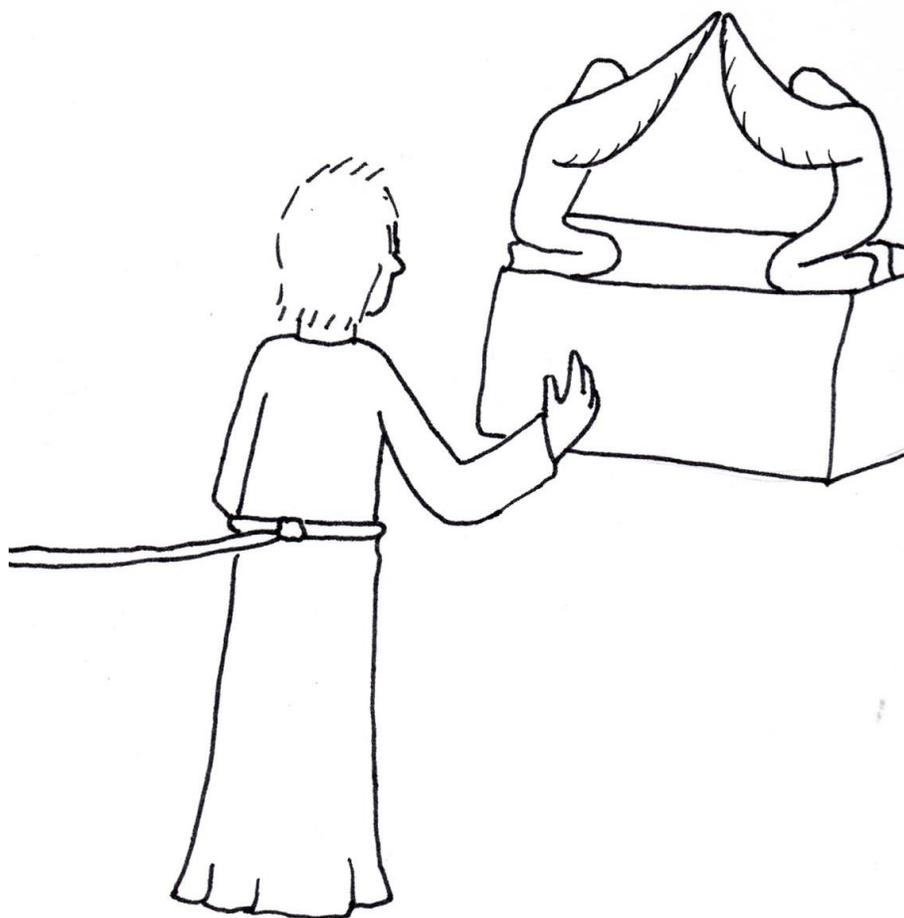
But only priests were allowed in this area, because they had purified themselves to serve God. Again this reminded the Israelites of God's holiness and how much God hates sin.

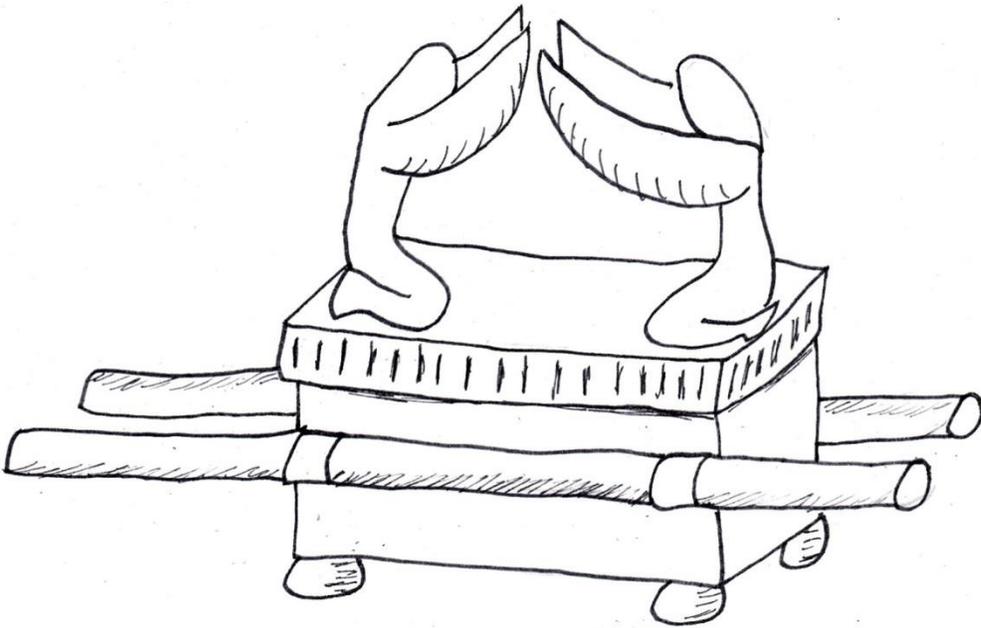
Between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies is a curtain.

This curtain is made of finely woven linen with red, blue, and purple. Cherubim are woven into the pattern

Cherubim are the angels that attend God. This is the entry way to where God dwells in the temple. This curtain is there to prevent anyone who is not worthy from entering the Holy of Holies.

The Holy of Holies is only entered once a year by the High Priest. Before he enters, a rope is tied around his waist, just in case he sins, and God must strike him dead for that sin. The Israelites understood the penalty for sin.





Inside the Holy of Holies is one piece of furniture, the Ark of the Covenant.

God told them to build it so they would remember all of God's promises to them. Inside they put the 10 Commandments that God had written for them.

Besides the 10 Commandments was a jar of mana to remind them yet again how God had cared for them in the desert.

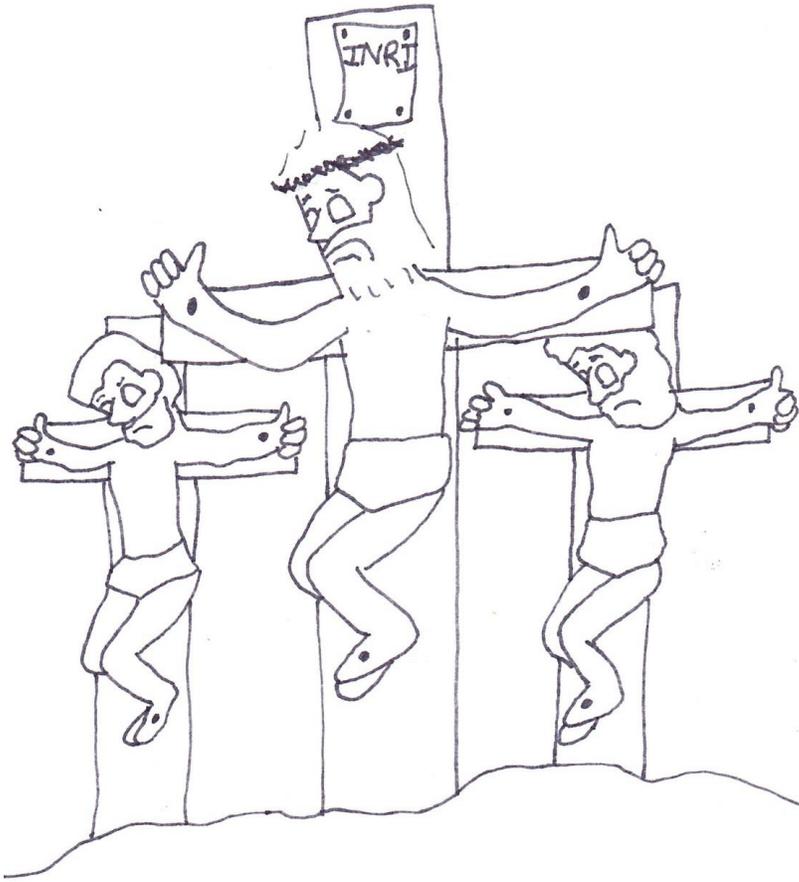
The final thing in the Ark was Aaron's staff. God had used it to perform many miracles, and it was proof God chose Aaron to lead the Israelites spiritually.

God chose one man to be his high priest, the first high priest was Aaron, Moses' brother.

The high priest was the intercessor between God and man. He prayed to God for the forgiveness of sins, he prayed to God for wisdom for the nation.

The high priest wore a special outfit to set him apart from the rest of the Israelites. He had a special breastplate with twelve gems on it, one for each tribe in Israel. He wore an over-robe with blue tassels at the corner, to show he was set apart for God.





When Jesus died on the cross the curtain separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple was torn in two. God was showing the whole world that He did not need to be separated from them anymore.

Jesus had done the work, there was no more need for sacrifices, because Jesus' blood was sufficient. There was no more need for the ritual washings, because Jesus had taken our sins away. There was no more need for a priesthood because Jesus was our high priest.

## Questions

1. Why did the priests wash their hands and feet?
2. Why did the Israelites sacrifice a lamb to God?
3. What was the high priest's job?
4. Why don't we have a tabernacle or a high priest?
5. Why don't we offer animals to God as sacrifices anymore?
6. Why don't we have a high priest anymore?  
What is Jesus' job? Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

## Activities

1. Build a model tabernacle, either with the printable model below or using supplies you have in your house. As you do think about the care the Israelites took to build the tabernacle to please God and to worship Him.

## Online

1. Website that gives pictures of recreations of the tabernacle-  
<http://www.templebuildersministry.com/>
2. Tabernacle coloring pages-  
<http://printablecolouringpages.co.uk/?s=tabernacle&page=1>
3. Make a high priest costume-  
<http://ihavenogreaterjoy.wordpress.com/2013/05/24/exodus-excitement-wrap-up/>
4. 3-D rendering of Moses' tabernacle-  
<http://www3.telus.net/public/kstam/en/default.htm>
5. Possible meanings for items in the tabernacle-  
<http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/articles.php?display=article23>
6. Priest paper doll-  
<http://practicalpages.wordpress.com/2010/02/12/bible-study-priests-garments/>
7. Printable model of the tabernacle-  
[http://www.gospelhall.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2016&Itemid=56](http://www.gospelhall.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2016&Itemid=56)