In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 20
The Tabernacle, Priests, and Sacrifices

Themes:
- God instructed Israel about how they were to worship Him in the tabernacle.
- The holy God desires to dwell with His people.
- God chose priests to be mediators between God and His sinful people.
- God commanded the priests to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of their own sins and the sins of the people.
- On the Day of Atonement, the one high priest could enter the Most Holy Place.

Scripture:
Portions of Exodus 25-30 and Leviticus 16

Memory Verse:
Review Isaiah 53:3-12 (See REVIEW sheet.)

Today's Clue;
ONE HIGH PRIEST

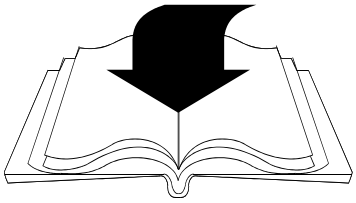
Home and Heart:
Ask your child about the tabernacle. You could have him draw a simple floor plan. Point out that God had exact instructions for how the tabernacle would look, what it would be made of, what furniture it would contain, and how it would function. Why was there a veil in front of the Holy Place? What was special about this room? Read Exodus 25:21-22. Who alone could enter this room? How often could he enter? Read and discuss the Day of Atonement from Leviticus 16. Are there clues pointing to Jesus and His death on the cross?

The tabernacle was to be a glimpse of what the garden of Eden was like before sin, where Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God. After they sinned, what prevented them from returning to the garden? (See Genesis 3:24.) In the tabernacle, what separated the people from the Most Holy Place? Does the tabernacle still exist? What about the veil and the Ark of the Covenant? Does this mean God no longer has a special dwelling place to be close to His people? Do we still need to kill animals and have priests offer them on an altar for the forgiveness of sin? Why not? Can you think of Bible passages to answer these questions?

Read Leviticus 4 with God's instructions for certain kinds of sacrifices. Would these be easy to do? Why would sacrifices need to be repeated over and over, day and night in the tabernacle? Were the priests ever "finished" with their job? Were people ever able to stop giving sacrifices? Why not? Read and discuss Hebrews 10:1-4. Why is it impossible for the blood of animals to take away sins? Did God make a way to take away sins? Read and discuss John 1:29.



DISCOVER MORE



LEVITICUS

This week read about the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16. Then do the word search below. There are 24 words from the text hidden in the search. (They are not words like *of, the, and, for, etc.*) All 24 words will be written across or down. Use the NIV Bible.

K	H	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G	P	R	T	Y
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C	R	H	O	L	Y	K	R	K	M	O	R	T	G