**Contemplative Event: The Tabernacle**

**Reading:**

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. The LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. ***(Exodus 24 and 25)***

**Narration:**

Can you hear God calling you to approach him? The Old Testament tabernacle was given to God's people as an example of how God is to be approached in worship. It was a layout that God revealed to Moses and each part of the tabernacle is rich with symbolism that can guide us in our worship. Today we are going to take a journey through the tabernacle - we will come close to experiencing what the high priest in the Old Testament experience when he went to worship on behalf of the nation of Israel.

**Multimedia Presentation:**

Video: A 3D journey through the Tabernacle on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQus4je7Jw4

**Worship:** A call to approach God in worship **MTHA**

**1. Bronze Altar (At the front of the room on a small table) ANDREW**

*Symbolism:* Dedicate Yourself to God

*Scripture Reading:*

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy--the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? (Romans 12:1)

*Activities:*

\* Offering of Tithes and Gifts

\* Surrendering of an Idol

\* Bring your tithes and offerings before God in appreciation for all he has done for you.

\* What one thing is in danger of coming between yourself and God - consider sacrificing it on the altar – maybe find something that symbolises it. Paper and pens to write things down.

**2. Bronze Basin (In front of the serving hatch) QUINTON**

*Symbolism:* Confess and Ask for Cleansing

*Scripture Reading:*

(Confession) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

(Pardon) The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103:8)

*Activity:* To symbolise the forgiveness that God gives when we confess, we have provided water and towels for you to use however you choose.

*Song Item:* about forgiveness and pardon **MTHA**

**3. Golden Candlestick (On the Table Tennis Table) ANDREW**

*Symbolism:* Meditate on the Word of God

*Scripture Reading:*

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

*Activity:* Youth are each given a short section from the Manga Bible to read (the story of Jesus’ temptation).

**Switch off the Lights**

*Activity:* A leader will light a centre candle and encourage youth to each light a candle to symbolise the way in which God's word guides us along our path – thank God that we have the Bible that leads us to him

**4. Table of Shewbread (On the pool table on a dance board) MARK**

*Symbolism:* Reflect on the Unity of the Body

*Scripture Readings:*

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. (Psalm 133)

*Activity:* We have provided bread so that you can eat together with your brothers and sisters at the table before the Lord. You might want to remember that God has made us all as family.

**5. Incense Altar (at the foosball table) MARK**

*Symbolism:* Offer Prayers of Intercession

*Scripture Reading:*

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints…Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. (Revelation 5:8; 8:3)

*Activities:*

Pray about serious issues we are facing as a country today!

Burn some incense which reminds us that your prayer has been heard by God.

**6. Ark of the Covenant (Juice at the serving hatch) CHERYL**

*Symbolism:* Express Devotion to God

*Scripture Reading:*

There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites. (Exodus 25:22)

*Activity: Get a cup of grape juice and find a place to sit at the feet of father God. Enjoy his presence.*

*Worship:* 2 or 3 intimate worship songs**MTHA**

**Final Challenge**

To get close to the tabernacle – the outer courts, you had to have been born an Israelite - of the tribe of Judah, Benjamin or Dan.

To worship in the holy place you had to be born of the tribe of Levi and of the family of Aaron – you had to be a priest – in fact, the High Priest.

You could only go in there once a year and only after the most elaborate preparations, and even then only for a very little while.

We have full access to Father God – every day of the week – every minute of every hour – you don’t need to go to the temple in Jerusalem – just turn towards Father wherever you are!!!

**Scripture Readings**

**Introduction Reading**

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(Romans 12:1)

**2. Bronze Basin**

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**3. Golden Candlestick**

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**4. Table of Shewbread**

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**6. Ark of the Covenant**

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**Supplies for Each Station**

**1. Bronze Altar ANDREW**

Boxes for offering of tithes and gifts

Box for placing of idols

Symbols of idols? Pics?

**2. Bronze Basin QUINTON**

Place to wash hands/feet

Towels

Basins

**3. Golden Candlestick MARK**

Candles to light

Matches

Extract from Manga Bible Temptation)

**4. Table of Shewbread ANDREW**

Table with fresh bread

Paper plates?

**5. Incense Altar MARK**

Incense

A fire to burn it in

Webber braai from Andrew

**6. Ark of the Covenant CHERYL**

Grape juice to drink in cups

**Other Needs:**

PowerPoint and Video

A person responsible for each station

Scripture readings