

**TREASURES FROM THE TENT--DAY TWO**  
**“The Brazen Altar, Laver and God’s Provision for Sin”**  
**Grades 1-3**

**Exodus 38:1-8; Leviticus 4; Ex. 30:17-21**

**Materials Needed:**

Pictures of children  
Altar/Laver pictures  
Lamb or goat  
Story pictures  
Picture: Jesus-cross

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my student

To Know: When any Israelite approached God, he had to enter through the gate and own up to his sin by presenting a perfect and costly sacrifice whose blood would pay for his sins so that he could be forgiven. Even the priests had to wash in the laver before entering the tent.

Basic Teaching: In order for a person to come to God, he must own up to his sin, realizing how costly it was for Jesus to pay for his sins so he could be forgiven.

To Respond:

\*by owning up to their sin and receiving Jesus’ costly sacrifice so they can be forgiven.

**Tabernacle Time:**

I. Israelites Approach God through the Gate	Covered in opening Tabernacle Time
---	------------------------------------

**Approach:**

Show a picture of two children fighting over a toy. Talk about the picture and tell how one girl (boy) was playing at the other friend’s house. They both wanted the same toy. The girl who was visiting picked it up and started playing with it. The other girl grabbed it and said, “No, you can’t play with that toy. It’s mine.” Then the other girl started pulling back and saying, “But I saw it and I want to play with it!!” Ask: Are they doing the right thing in this picture? Why not? What should they do instead? When we treat others unkindly and not the way we would want to be treated, the Bible calls that “Sin.” Sin means it is wrong.

(You may want to use another picture of a child not having a happy attitude about something his parents have told him to do, etc.).

Don’t tell me any names, but can you think of a time when someone did something that was wrong to you? Now I want you to think about a time when you did something that

you knew was not right. Maybe you were unkind or you did not obey your parents. How many people do you think have gone their own way and done something that is wrong?

The Bible says that ALL have sinned. That means each one of us has gone our own way. Did you know that even long time ago when the Israelites were living, they even did things that were wrong and unkind to each other? Even they sinned!

## II. Israelites Pay for Sin

### A. Priests/Congregation

1. Bull
2. Elders killed at altar
3. Take blood into Tent

What do parents do when their child has gone their own way? (Spank or punish.)

God said that He has to punish when people sin too. Do you know what God says the punishment is when people do what is wrong? (death) Either the person who sinned would have to die or they would have to find something to die in their place if they were going to be forgiven.

When all the Israelites did something wrong, they would let God know they had done wrong by bringing a big bull. (Show picture of bringing an animal.) They would tell what they had done wrong and then the bull would have to be punished by dying so that they could be forgiven.

There was no other way for their sins to be forgiven. God said that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. He won't forgive the wrong things people have done unless something is punished.

The priest would take the blood of the bull into the Tabernacle. God knew that something had died for the wrong things His people had done. And do you know what God would do? He would forgive His people, the Israelites.

### B. Leaders/Individuals

1. Male goat/female goat or lamb
  - a. Without defect
  - b. No incense

But what would happen if just one person sinned? Do you think something would still have to die in order for God to forgive their sin? Yes!

The person brought a goat or lamb to put on that big altar. It couldn't have anything wrong with it. It had to be the very best goat or lamb they had.

They would tell what they had done wrong. Then that little lamb would have to be punished. Why would the lamb have to be punished? Had it done anything wrong? If the lamb were not punished, then who would be punished instead? (The person who had done wrong.)

2. Placed hands on it	The person would tell what they had done and then the lamb would die. That's sad isn't it? But when we disobey and go our own way, it is VERY sad. It must be punished before God can forgive us.
3. Priests would take blood to altar	When that lamb's blood was put onto the big altar, and God saw that the lamb had died, do you know what He would do? He would <u>forgive</u> the person, and they wouldn't have to die for the wrong things they had done! They could live because the lamb had taken their punishment instead.
III. Jesus Takes Our Sin A. Look! The lamb of God	Many, many years after the Israelites brought their lambs to the Tabernacle, God sent Jesus into the world. Jesus' cousin, John, saw Him one day and he said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Now, do you think he meant that Jesus was pretending to be a lamb? Of course not! What do you think Jesus' cousin meant? (See if students can come up with the idea that Jesus would be the one to be punished for the wrong things that everyone in the world has done.) Jesus was put on a cross.
B. Jesus Dies on the Cross	(Show picture.) Had He ever done anything wrong? He was perfect. Then why was He being punished? When God saw Jesus' blood on the cross, He said, "Now when someone sins and asks me to forgive them, I will, because <u>Jesus</u> has died for them."

**Conclusion:**

When you and I do what is wrong, God says that someone must be punished for our sin. A lamb doesn't have to be punished anymore, because the Lord Jesus came to be punished instead. Do you know what God wants us to do when we disobey and go our own way? Tell Him what you have done and let Him know that what you did was wrong. Then you can tell Him that you know that Jesus was punished for what YOU did wrong, even though He didn't do anything wrong. Ask Him to forgive you. And do you know what God will do? He will forgive you. He will forgive you because Jesus died and gave His blood. He took your punishment.

Close in a prayer of thanksgiving for what Jesus has done.

(Note: Some children may be following right with you and God might be working in their hearts. Do not give a false 'assurance of salvation' by leading the whole class to pray for their sins to be forgiven. Yet do not rule out that God may be convicting some of these children of their sin and they may come to understand that Jesus has taken their punishment for sin. You may wish to say something like, "If you know that you have disobeyed God's rules and gone your own way, and you would like to admit what you have done and ask Jesus to pay for your sin, I would like you to talk to me (specify a time--after VBS, during the bathroom break, etc.)."

Show a picture of the laver and quickly wrap up with it's historical purpose.

IV. Priests Used Laver to Wash Their Hands/Feet

- A. When entering the Tent
- B. So they would not die
- C. When ministering at the altar

Show them the laver and ask what the laver looks like. (A bowl, a sink.) Ask them what they use a sink for. (To wash things.) That is what this laver was for. The people didn't use this; only the people who worked in the Tabernacle used the laver. Every time the priests were going to go into the Tabernacle, they would wash their hands and feet. Those parts had gotten dirty. God wanted to remind them that they had to be all clean if they were going to come into His Tabernacle.