

TREASURES FROM THE TENT--DAY TWO
“The Brazen Altar, Laver and God’s Provision for Sin”
Grades 4-6

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

Materials Needed:

Pictures of children
Wordstrips
Package of meat
Altar/Laver pictures
Lamb or goat

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. Unless one is clean, he is not fit for God’s presence.

To Respond:

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

*By renewing their cleansing before God.

Tabernacle Time:

I. Israelites Approach God
through the Gate

Covered in opening Tabernacle Time

Approach:

I would like to tell you about three children. The first one is Jeremy. (Put up picture.) Jeremy was waiting for his friend. They were supposed to ride bikes together. After waiting for fifteen minutes, Jeremy went to his friend’s house to see what was wrong. His friend’s mother said that his friend had already gone riding with another boy from down the street. Jeremy was really angry that his friend had not gone riding with him like he said he would. When he saw his friend, he yelled some angry words and then rode off and went home. Jeremy’s mother heard what had happened and gently reminded him, “Even though you were hurt, it was wrong to yell angry words. You need to make it right, Jeremy.” Jeremy just sat there. Inside he was thinking, “I’m not going to say I’m sorry until he says he’s sorry first.” For the next week Jeremy didn’t talk with

or ride near his friends house. Do you know how Jeremy is taking care of his sin? He's ignoring it. He's pretending he didn't do anything wrong. (Put wordstrip next to picture.)

The next person I would like to tell you about is a boy named Daniel. Daniel had three brothers, and they always joked around and played rough with each other. One evening his parents' friends came over with their two daughters. Daniel started teasing one of the girls about the clothes she was wearing and how she wore her hair. The girl was smiling for awhile, but suddenly she broke into tears and ran to her parents. Daniel's mother and father were upset that he would be teasing her like that. They said, "Daniel, you need to say you are sorry." Daniel said, "Sorry" but inside he was thinking, "She's just being a baby. I didn't even say anything mean. My brothers never get mad when I tease them, they think it's funny." Do you know how Daniel is taking care of his sin? He is pretending that it is no big deal. It's so small in his mind. (Put up wordstrip next to picture.)

The third person I want to tell you about is Miriam. Miriam's friend, Susan, was supposed to come over to spend the night. At the very last minute Susan called and said she really didn't want to come over. Miriam was very angry and hurt that Susan would do that. She called another friend and started talking about what Susan had done. Then Susan found out what Miriam was saying about her and got her feelings hurt too. Miriam felt really bad over the things she had said about Susan. She went to Susan and apologized for saying those things about her. Even after she had said she was sorry, Miriam continued to feel bad for what she had said. She kept on asking Susan to forgive her over and over and thought that maybe she would feel better if she did all sorts of special favors for Susan. Do you know how Miriam is taking care of her sin? She keeps bringing it up over and over again. (Put wordstrip up.)

Which of these three do you think took care of their sin the best way? (Get students to respond and tell why. Someone might say that none of them are good, but don't give the answer away at this point. Just continue to ask which one of the THREE choices do they feel is the best. Conclude by saying,) We are going to see which way GOD says is the right way to take care of things when we sin.

Imagine that we are all together at the opening of the Tabernacle and you have heard that we are there because someone has sinned and broken God's Law. In fact, it's not just one person, you find out that most of the tribes have done something that God has told them not to do. How are they going to pay for their sin? Do you know what God says the payment for sin is? Death. God said that when someone sins, they must die OR find someone/something to die in their place.

Outline:

Leviticus 4

II. Israelites Pay for Sin
A. Priests/Congregation

(Some might say a sheep or a goat.)

Page 2 of 5

You are watching carefully because you know that a lot of people deserve to die. What is going to happen? Then you see me as one of your leaders go to the front of the gate and

1. Bull

what do I have with me?

When the whole assembly had sinned or if the priest had sinned, the leaders of each tribe had to bring not a sheep but a BULL to the front of the tent.

Why do you think it had to be a bull?
(Costly)

Hold up a pack of meat from the store. Show how much just one pack of meat costs. How much more would a whole bull cost!

What do you think God was trying to teach them? Do you think they could say, "Oh our sin wasn't that big. It's a small thing"?

2. Elders slaughtered at altar

And then imagine you are standing in the crowd and you are trying to see what was happening, because you knew that the bull was going to die instead of the people dying. Who was going to kill the bull? (They might guess the priests.)

Have a student read Leviticus 4:15.

3. Take blood into Tent

Then the priests would take the blood into the Tabernacle and sprinkle it on an altar that was right in front a curtain where God said His presence would be. And when God saw the blood there, you know what would happen? The people would be forgiven because something had died for their sin and the blood was on the altar.

The rest of the blood would be taken to the altar made of bronze and poured out and then some of the bull would be burned on that altar and the rest would be burned outside the camp.

B. Leaders/Individuals

But what would happen if just a person sinned?

They couldn't afford to bring a whole

It is good to have the students to read verses, but sometimes it can break the flow of the lesson to have everyone searching through their Bibles. You might want to have everyone open their Bibles at the beginning of the lesson to the main passage. For other references, have them written out on index cards and have the "early birds" mark them before class, or have the verse written out and have a student read it at the appropriate time.

1. Male goat/female goat or lamb

- a. Without defect
- b. No incense

2. Placed hands on it

3. Priests would take blood from there

- a. Offered on brazen altar
- b. Poured out rest

bull. That was pretty expensive! If the person were a leader, they would bring a male goat. If they were a common person, they would bring a female goat or lamb for a sacrifice. If they were bringing something that cost that much, do you think they were ignoring their sin?

God said the goat or lamb had to be perfect. These offerings had no incense. How would it smell out there in the desert? (Stinks!) What was God trying to tell the person about their sin? (Your sin stinks to me!)

Who killed the sacrifice? (Have a student come and place their hands on the sacrifice.)

Why do you think the person had to kill the sacrifice? (Take answers but get around to the point that the person had to own up to what they did.)

Was their sin a small thing? Could they ignore it? They had to admit what they had done and that their sin was deserving of death.

Who would take the rest of the blood? (Priest.) He would put some on the horns of the bronze altar and then pour the rest out. Was there anymore the person could do? (No.) Would God forgive them?

Why? (Because of the blood.) The person had brought it and admitted their sin, but the sacrifice paid for it. Did they need to keep bringing lambs for that sin? Why not? (It was paid for.)

Conclusion: I want you to think right now. How do you take care of your sin? Do you try to ignore it? Make it not seem so big? Keep bringing it up again and again because you feel bad? (Point to the three pictures from the beginning as you ask these questions.) Do you know what you need? You need a perfect lamb to pay for your sin. (Have a student read John 1:29. God doesn't want real animal lambs anymore. Who

is THE lamb of God? (Jesus) Do you know how God takes away sin now? A person must admit their sin. They can't pretend they haven't sinned or that it wasn't that bad. They must realize that they are the one that Jesus died for when He was put on the cross. They are trusting that Jesus' blood will pay for their sin. What does God do when He hears and sees someone trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross?

(Forgives) Just like He did back then.

(Have students bow their heads) Is there anyone here who has not admitted their sins to God and told Him that they are the one Jesus died for? You can admit your sin to God right now. You can trust what Jesus did on the cross. (Either lead in a prayer or allow a moment for them to pray silently. Close with "Amen.")

Now, do you have to keep bringing up your sin to God? Why not? Who paid for it? Are you forgiven? (Have a student read I John 1:9)

There's just one more question: What happens when a person who has had Jesus forgive their sins, does something wrong again? There is one other piece of furniture in the outer courtyard. It's called a Laver.

Exodus 30:17-21

Because the lesson is mainly about the bronze altar, not much time is given to the laver. Touch on it here with it's symbolic meaning.

III. Priests Use Laver to Wash Their Hands/Feet

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

Every time the priests were going to go into the tent where God's throne was, they would wash their hands and feet. Those parts had gotten dirty. If you know you have put your trust in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, God says that he has forgiven you. But when you sin after that, those sins need to be cleaned up. Tell Jesus what you have done and ask Him to make you clean. Then you will be ready for God to use you.