



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

THE TABERNACLE #6

JESUS MY CLOSEST FRIEND

Hebrews 7:22-10:25; Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9; Numbers 17:1-11; 40:32-35



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME JESUS WAITS FOR ME TO MEET WITH HIM BECAUSE HE IS MY CLOSEST FRIEND

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: Repeat 2x with Congregation

HEBREWS 4:16

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

INTRODUCTION: God’s desire has always been to live in and among His people because He loves us! The Tabernacle in the wilderness was a physical picture of God’s mercy to forgive us our sins through His own blood that would be shed for us, and God’s grace ever waiting for us to come meet with Him in the Holy of Holies to be filled with the power of His presence and love.

T ORDER OF SERVICE:

1. Light Candles & Pray
2. Children’s Songs/Story
3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring
4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’
5. Adult Fellowship Break
6. Worship Song Set
7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer
8. Blessing Songs & Benediction

OBJECTS TO BRING: Ark Model, Stone Tablets, Jar of Manna, 13 Sticks (1 with Flower Buds), Tabernacle & Brown Cover (with pre-cut opening), Glass Cup, Dry Ice, Jar of Water, Gold Walls, Knitted Veil, Lampstand, Candles, Mini Pancakes, Priest, Incense, Lighter

2. CHILDREN'S STORY: MY FRIEND WAITS FOR ME



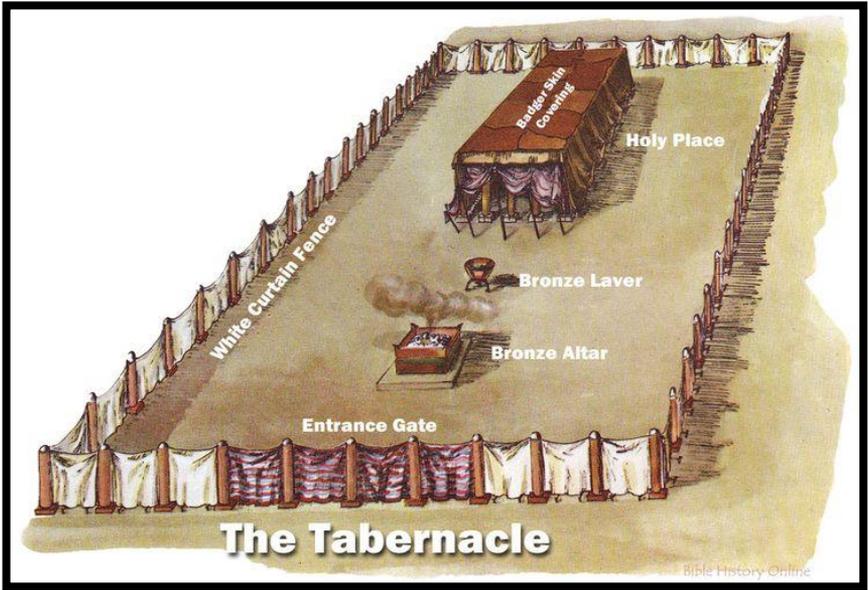
Kaylie, Kyle, Ray, and Karen were all neighbors who had lived on the same street since they were babies. Their mom's used to take them to the park to play on the playground, and now, every day after school, they still met there in the old oak tree at the edge of the park. None of them could remember quite when, but they had promised each other they would be friends forever. Each day, one by one, they would climb up the old oak tree at the edge of the park until all four of them were there, then they would make plans for what they would do that day. Some days they went to the library to do homework, some days they would go play basketball or hide and seek, and some days they would just sit and talk.

One day Karen came to the tree first. She waited a long time but the others did not come. Finally Kyle showed up and they waited together, but it wasn't the same without Ray and Kaylie. The next day Karen came to the tree again. This time she waited until dark for her friends and not one of them came. Karen missed her friends and wished that they would come to meet with her. Little by little, their promise and the tree were forgotten. They each had found other friends and hardly spoke to each other at all.

When you stop meeting with your friends, the friendship grows apart. You might forget friends you used to have because you stopped meeting with them, but Jesus is your forever friend who will never ever leave you no matter what. Jesus misses you and is always waiting for you to come meet with Him. **Many friends will come and go, but Jesus is your friend forever.**



3. THE TABERNACLE IS A PICTURE OF JESUS LIVING IN HIS CHURCH.



RECAP: The brass poles forming the fence around the tabernacle remind us that we stand guilty of God’s judgement. But the silver caps and the white linen curtain show us that Jesus loves you so much that He, Himself, paid the greatest price when He laid His own life down to redeem you, then He washes you clean, and covers you with His own robe of righteousness!

When we see the the bronze altar where the lambs were sacrificed, we understand that Jesus, as the Lamb of God, redeemed us with His own blood on the altar of the cross, once for all. The lavar that was made of mirrors, reminds us that when we look in the Bible we see our sin. Jesus washes us clean by the power of His word. When you look into God’s word like a mirror, Jesus is reflected in you as He changes you into His own image!

The badger skin covering reminds us of God’s protection, and of the glorious beautiful treasure of Jesus, hidden inside the Holy Place where Jesus comes to meet with you each and every day!

4. WE MUST LEAVE THE OUTSIDE WORLD BEHIND, TO COME IN TO THE HOLY PLACE WITH GOD.



Like Moses, we must leave all behind to follow Jesus! Coming from the outside world into the Holy Place of God was like walking into Heaven! The **wooden board walls** inside of the Holy Place, were covered

with **pure gold** like our own humanness covered by the glory of God. (*Light the Menorah candles next to a mirror*) The lights of the **lampstand** made a beautiful golden glow in the Tabernacle! When you keep your heart filled with God's word, and your life filled with the oil of God's Holy Spirit, He will light up your life with His glory!

Revelation 21:23 “*And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: **for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.**”*



The priest was to keep showbread on the **table** at all times; and **the presence of God should always ‘show’** on the table of our hearts.

It was also the job of the priest to keep the sweet fragrance of prayer going up to God from the **altar of incense** day and night. When Jesus finished His work on earth, He entered into the Holy of Holies in Heaven. In the Tabernacle of Heaven, Jesus prays for you day and night! (*light the incense (scented candle) and smell the aroma*) Your prayers to God are a very sweet fragrance to Him!

Revelation 8:3-4 “*And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and **there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.** ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.”*

5. ONLY THE PRIESTS COULD GO BEHIND THE VEIL INTO THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD.

Exodus 25:10-22 vs.22 “And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”



The veil separating the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, was woven together as one piece. This knitted veil is only about ½ “thick, but the veil of the Tabernacle was 15’ tall and 6” thick! Who can tear this veil? (*Let a child try.*) Only God could! The priest went behind the veil one day a year, the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle the blood of the Lamb to atone for the sins of the people.

Matthew 27:50-51 “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. ⁵¹ And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.”

When Jesus laid down His life to die on the cross, he shed His own blood to atone for our sins. At the moment that Jesus died, the veil of the temple was ripped in two (*remove veil*), from top to bottom, to show that now, through His sacrifice, we who were not priests, can by faith in Him, go boldly into the holy presence of our Lord!

Hebrews 10:19-20 “Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain (veil), that is, his body.”

2 Corinth 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

6. THE ARK TESTIFIES THAT GOD IS ALL POWERFUL!

Hebrews 7:22-10:25 Earthly priests are a picture of Jesus, the High Priest of Heaven who ministers through His Spirit living in us!

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”



Here we see the Altar of Incense where the priest lit the fragrant incense and lifted up prayers for God’s people day and night; **and we see where the veil has been cut away to show the beautiful golden Ark of the Testimony.** A solid gold lid covering the Ark

was called the **Mercy seat.** It was there at the seat of God’s wonderful mercy, between the wings of the angels that God would come to meet with Moses! The Tabernacle was patterned after the beautiful place of God’s dwelling in Heaven, **where we still go today between the wings of the angels who watch over us, to His seat of mercy in in prayer.** From God’s seat of mercy, His loving mercy and forgiveness is poured out abundantly for you. **Jesus says to us, to come meet with Him between the wings of the angels, to receive His loving mercy, grace, glory, friendship, and power to live our lives in the victory of Jesus name!**

Inside the Ark of Testimony, we find the **stone tablets** with the 10 Commandments written with God’s finger, that teach us to know God’s loving ways, His order, and that He alone is God! The **jar of manna** testifies that God provides when there is nothing and He is able to make a way in our wilderness, where there is no way!

When you go through a terrible desert time, or drowning in sadness, you can know that God who sees your heart, will feed you, reward you and give you all that you need because He loves you!

7. GOD CAUSES HIS LIFE TO BLOOM IN MY LIFE!

And what is this? It is [Aaron's rod](#) that budded, a testimony that God can choose whomever He will and bring life even to a dead stick, and God can surely choose you, and bring new life to you!

In [Numbers 13 & 14](#) we read about a priest, Korah, who thought he would make a better leader than Moses, and led the people to rise up against Moses! God showed Korah and the people that He chooses who He chooses and causes them to bloom, while God's judgment of death came upon rebellious Korah and his followers.

OBJECT LESSON: Aaron's rod.

God had a plan to choose who would be the next leader. Each of the 12 tribes, or households, of the sons of Israel, was to give their walking staff, called a rod, to Moses to represent their family. The name of the head of the tribe was written on each rod ([lay out craft sticks with names of 12 tribes plus Levi](#)). There was one rod for each tribe, plus one more for the tribe of Levi. The tribe of Levi was Aaron's family, who were the priests assigned to take care of the Tabernacle, making 13 rods total. God told Moses to lay the rods in front of the Ark of the Testimony, and God would show whom he had chosen by causing the dead wood to blossom so there would be no doubt. ([Everyone close your eyes](#)) *When he went back in the next day, ([Change Aaron's for budded rod](#)) Look! God brought the dead stick to life! Aaron's rod had budded and was bearing almonds!*



Aaron's rod gives us hope that God chooses whomever He will, even me! And God causes His life to blossom in them. No matter how sad or hopeless your future may seem to you, God can take

what is dead in your heart and make it come alive again!

[1 Corinthians 3:16](#) *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?”*

8. COME BOLDLY BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE

To understand the meaning of God's word to us today, we look to the Old Testament to find the meaning for Jewish idioms that are used in the New Testament to describe our God and His ways, because He is the same God yesterday, as He is today.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Moses was able to go boldly before the throne of grace to commune with God every day, while God's people outside could not come in behind the veil. The change that came through the coming of Jesus Christ, who became the sacrifice for sin once for all, is that He gave His Holy Spirit freely to all who receive Him, so that not just Moses, **but all**, may come boldly before the throne.



Heb 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

God was able to do so much through Abraham and through Moses, because they obeyed Him by following God's way. Do you obey God's word? The more that you obey God and listen to Him, the more wonderful things He will show you that He wants to do through you, and for you in your life!

When we come boldly before the throne of God's grace, that does not mean that we come in arrogantly boasting of how powerful and great we are in Christ, because even with God living in us through His Holy Spirit, God is still God, and we are still not! We come boldly before His throne, but humble ourselves like Moses, bowing before God's throne on the dirty floor of our own humanity. We are strangers in this world, sojourning for Him as His servants through His priesthood in us, keeping His precious children upon our hearts. Oh that we may become like our Savior, loving His people, and interceding for them that they may be transformed and brought in to the Holy of Holies to be safe with Him. Amen.

9. MOSES FINISHED HIS WORK AND THE GLORY OF GOD FILLED THE TABERNACLE.

OBJECTS: *Tabernacle Model, Dry Ice in glass jar inside Tabernacle, with opening cut for pouring in warm water.*



Exodus 40:32-35 “When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses. ³³ And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So

Moses finished the work. ³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”

Why did God work so mightily in the lives of Abraham and Moses? Because Moses, like Abraham before him, did everything God told him to do. Moses put the stone tablets, the manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded inside the Ark as a testimony of God, then he placed the Ark inside the Holy of Holies inside the Tabernacle.

(Pour the warm water over the dry ice to make clouds of steam).

And the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle!

The presence of God was so powerful that Moses could not go inside the Tabernacle! Think of how amazing it is, that Jesus calls you to have the power of **God’s Holy Spirit immersing you, filling you, and flowing out from you just as He promised!**

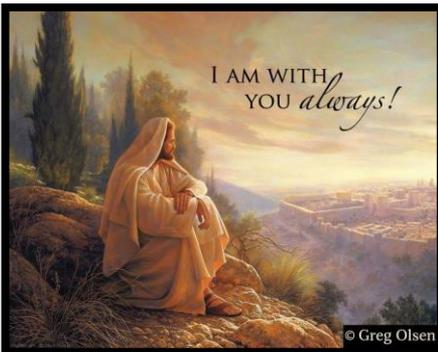
Luke 24:49 “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Spending time in the presence of Jesus brings great reward!

10. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR ME

1. When you receive the Lord Jesus for your Savior, he washes you and clothes you in His own righteousness.
2. Many friends will come and go but Jesus is your friend forever.
3. The Tabernacle is a picture of Jesus, living in His church.
4. God wants you to leave the cares of the world and come in to the Holy Place with Him.
5. God wants you to carry the people He gives to you on your heart always, and pray for them.
6. Your prayers for others are a sweet smelling fragrance to God.
7. Jesus is always praying for all of us, and He wants us to be like Him and express our love for Him, by praying for one another.
8. When Jesus chooses you He gives you His Spirit that makes the dead wood in you come alive, and He causes you to bloom.
9. Jesus will cause His life to blossom in you more and more each day, as you come to meet with Him in His Holy Place.
10. As you meet with the Lord Jesus each day, He will immerse you and fill you with His Holy Spirit, and His glory will fill you, His tabernacle on earth!

GROUP PRAYER:



Dear Father God, Thank you for living in me through your Holy Spirit. Help me to be obedient to the Gospel and follow your ways, so that your glory will flow through me that I may bring many to know you and find new life in you, in Jesus name, Amen.

11. GOSPEL CRAFT: CHOSEN TO BLOOM FOR JESUS

I AM CHOSEN BY GOD FOR SALVATION, SO I MAY RECEIVE HIS HOLY SPIRIT AND BLOOM FOR HIM!

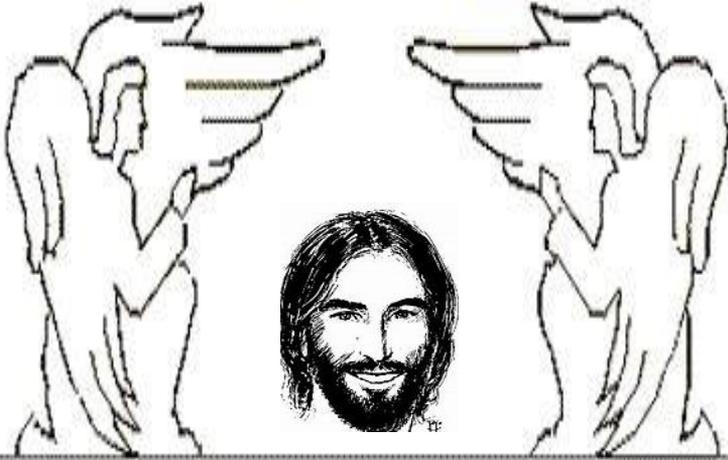
Luke 24:49 “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”



Directions for making Arron's Rod:

1. Select a sturdy 3'-4' long branch or purchase a wooden dowel for each child.
2. Clean the walking stick before gluing on Purpose/Scripture, buds and leaves.
3. Use silk flower buds, or roll up tissue paper for buds and cut green leaves.
4. Cut out the Purpose/Scripture label and glue near the top end of the stick.
5. Use hot melt glue to attach at least 7 buds with leaves to each walking stick.
6. Pray over children asking Jesus to fill them with His Holy Spirit and use their lives mightily to bloom for Him!

12. COLORING PAGE:



Jesus Waits For Me To Meet With Him

Because He Is My Closest Friend

Hebrews 4:16

**“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
That we may obtain mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.”**

**JESUS CALLED MOSES TO COME MEET WITH HIM,
BETWEEN THE WINGS OF THE CHERUBIM, JESUS
CALLS ME TO COME MEET WITH HIM IN MY HEART.**

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