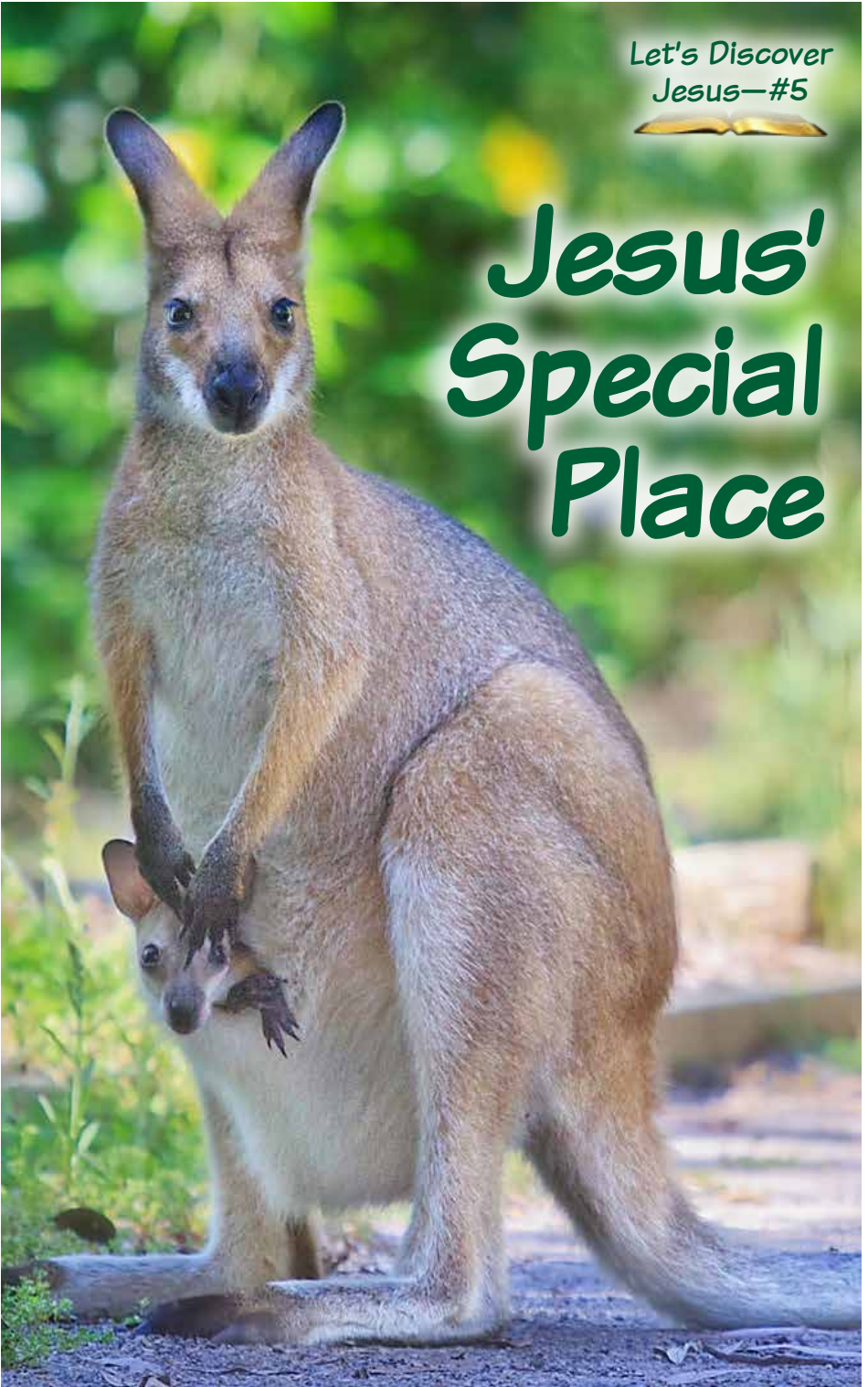


Let's Discover
Jesus—#5



Jesus' Special Place



A SANCTUARY

After God gave His Ten Commandments to the children of Israel, He wanted to talk to Moses. God said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain” (Exodus 24:12). So Moses climbed up the steep mountain path. At the top, God was in a thick, dark cloud; and there He talked with Moses.



God told Moses He loved the Israelites so much that He wanted to live with them. They lived in little tents, and God wanted a special tent so He could live right beside them. How wonderful!

For 40 days God talked with Moses on the mountain. God told Moses just how to build His tent. God’s special tent would be called a sanctuary. God wanted Moses to make it so the people would know about His sanctuary in heaven. It must be built very carefully. But where could Moses find materials for building the sanctuary?

On the night the Israelites left Egypt, the Egyptians gave them lots of gold, silver, brass, brightly colored cloth, and other valuable things. So God told Moses to collect an offering for the sanctuary

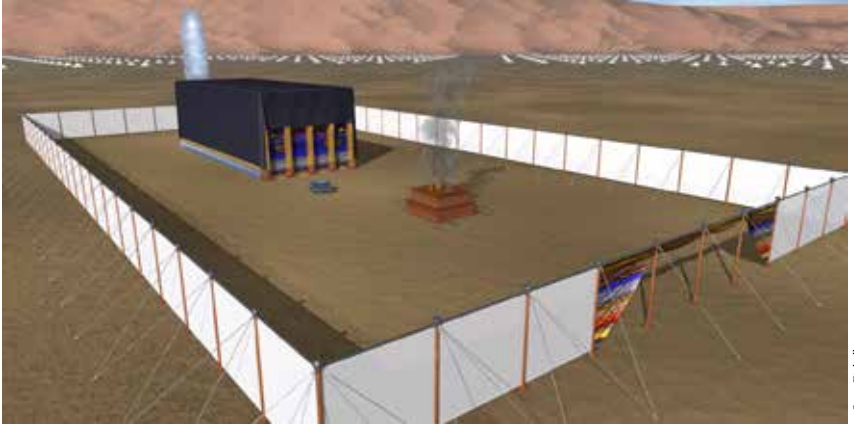


from the children of Israel. God said, “From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering” (Exodus 25:2). God only wanted gifts from people who gave cheerfully.

The Israelites were happy to give. They gave so much that finally Moses had to tell them to stop giving!

God chose two special men to be in charge of building the sanctuary, and God “filled them with skill to do all manner of work” (Exodus 35:35).

God also chose Aaron and his sons to work in His sanctuary. They were called priests, and they represented Jesus, who is our High Priest in heaven right now.



It took six months to build the sanctuary; and when it was finished, everything was exactly the way God had told Moses to make it. God was pleased, “and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle [sanctuary]” (Exodus 40:34).

The picture above shows what God’s beautiful sanctuary looked like.

THINKING ABOUT IT...

- Does God want to be close to us, like He wanted to be with the Israelites?
- Does God want us to give cheerfully?
- God helped the men build the sanctuary. Will He help us to do whatever He asks us to do?
- Does Jesus want to help us? Hebrews 4:14–16



THE COURTYARD

All around the sanctuary was a white curtain wall. There was only one door through which people could come into the courtyard. The white curtain represented Jesus, who never sinned.



The first thing inside the courtyard

was the altar of burnt offering. It was made of brass. Every morning and evening a perfect lamb was sacrificed on this altar. The lamb represented Jesus who died for our sins.



Near the door of the sanctuary was the laver. It was a big bowl made from shiny mirrors the ladies had given. Clear, clean water was in the laver so the priests could wash their hands and feet before

going into God's sanctuary. The water represented Jesus who can wash away our sins.

THE SANCTUARY

The sanctuary was a special building inside the courtyard. It also had only one door going into it. That door represented Jesus. Jesus said, **"I am the door"** (John 10:9). Jesus is the only way to forgiveness and heaven.

The sanctuary door and ceiling were made of blue, purple, and red cloth with beautiful angels embroidered on them. The walls of the sanctuary were made of wood covered with shiny gold.

Inside the sanctuary there were two rooms called the Holy Place

and the Most Holy Place. A thick, beautiful curtain hung between these two rooms.

THE HOLY PLACE

In the Holy Place were three pieces of furniture all covered with gold. On the left side of the room was a lampstand with seven lights brightly burning. The lights represented Jesus, who said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).

On the right side of the room was the table of showbread. On it were twelve loaves of flat bread covered with incense. The bread represented Jesus, who said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

In the middle, right in front of the thick, beautiful curtain, was the altar of incense. God Himself lit the fire on this altar. Every morning and evening the priest prayed and burned incense on it. The incense represented Jesus’ goodness. When we pray, Jesus wraps His goodness around our prayers and sends them up to God the Father.





THINKING ABOUT IT...

- **Everything in the sanctuary helped the Israelites learn about Jesus. Can you remember what some of those things were?**
- **Where were the Ten Commandments kept?**
- **Can God change us and help us obey His law, the Ten Commandments?**
- **Whom did the lamb represent? Are you thankful that Jesus died for our sins?**

THE MOST HOLY PLACE

In the Most Holy Place was the ark, the most important piece of furniture. It was a beautifully carved box covered with gold. On top was a special lid called the mercy seat. Looking down on the mercy seat were two golden angels.



Sean Eichelberger

Between the golden angels was a very bright light called the Shekinah. It showed that God's holy presence was there.



Inside the ark right under the beautiful Shekinah were two flat pieces of stone. On the stones were the words of the Ten Commandments. God had written them there with His own finger.

Once each year, the High Priest, who represented Jesus, went into the Most Holy Place to pray for the people.

GETTING RID OF SIN

God's sanctuary shows us how God forgives our sins and helps us stop sinning. When an Israelite sinned, he brought a perfect lamb

to the altar in the courtyard. Remember, the lamb represented Jesus, “the Lamb of

God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Amazing Facts



The man put his hand on the lamb's head and confessed his exact sin. Then he killed the innocent lamb.

This shows how our sins hurt Jesus when He died on the cross. Sin really, really hurts, doesn't it?

Only Jesus can forgive our sins and get rid of them. Only Jesus can help us stop sinning and help us obey. How much Jesus loves us!



A Bible verse to learn

“Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”
Exodus 25:8

I Choose

Do you want to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and help you obey?

My Prayer

Dear God, thank You for loving me so much. Thank You that Jesus died to take away my sins. Please forgive me for all my sins and help me to love and obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.

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A LESSON FROM NATURE

How many animals do you see in the picture below? Two. What kind of animals are they? They are kangaroos. Can you see the animal very well? No. The picture shows only the kangaroo's silhouette.

Suppose you had never seen a kangaroo before. How much could you learn about it by looking at the picture? Are its front legs the same size as its back legs? Are its ears big or small? Is its neck long or short? Is its tail thick or thin?

We can learn a lot from looking at a silhouette. But do silhouettes tell us everything about what is happening in the picture? No. Do you think the kangaroos are looking at the sunset? Or are they looking at the person taking the picture? We can't tell. Do these kangaroos have red fur? Or is their fur gray? And how long are their tails? The picture doesn't show us, does it?

In this Bible lesson, we learned that God wanted the Israelites to know more about Jesus and His wonderful plan to save us. But the Israelites couldn't look at Jesus directly. So God told Moses how to build the sanctuary. It had different pieces of furniture and different ceremonies. Each one of them helped the Israelites learn something about Jesus. We could say that they were like "silhouettes" or "shadows" of Jesus.

Could those things in the sanctuary tell the Israelites everything about Jesus? No. Silhouettes or shadows don't tell us everything. But God still wanted the Israelites to know as much as they could. The Bible says that these things were "a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (Colossians 2:17).

We don't have the sanctuary anymore; but from what the Bible says about it, we can still learn a lot about Jesus and His plan to save us from sin. Do you want to keep learning more about Jesus from the Bible?



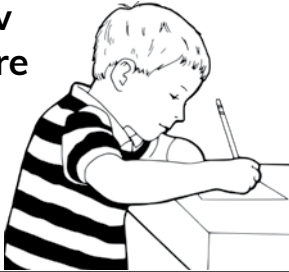
Jesus' Special Place

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The Israelites gave cheerfully and willingly
to help build the sanctuary. What can you give?

TIME

to draw
a picture
for a
sick
person



HAPPINESS

by smiling
at people
who feel
sad



KINDNESS



to someone
who is very
lonely



HELP

to Daddy
and
Mommy

FLOWERS



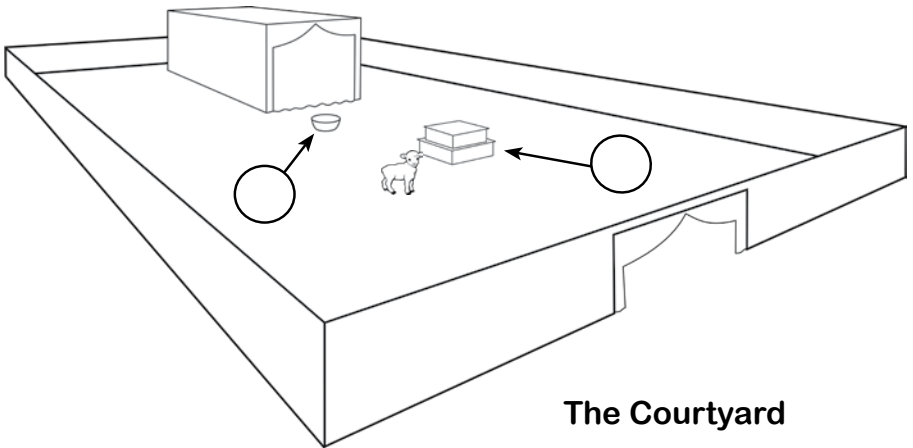
to a
sick
friend

THANKS

to God for
everything



Label the different parts of the sanctuary.
In each circle, write the letter that tells the correct name.
You may also color the pictures.



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| A. Altar of Sacrifice | D. Candlestick |
| B. Laver | E. Altar of Incense |
| C. Table of Showbread | F. Ark of the Covenant |

