

NOTES:

The tabernacle was first built under the guidance of God through Moses. The writer of Hebrews draws several allusions and parallels to Jesus throughout his writing. There are some pieces that the writer leaves out so that we can focus on what Jesus is doing right now in the presence of God.

Lampstand: used to provide light to the priests, and in the same way, Jesus refers to Himself in the book of John as the light of the world.

Table with Consecrated Bread: the priests would eat the bread in the Holy Place for sustenance. Our relationship with Jesus is to be one of communion where we feed on Him within the holiness of our relationship with Him.

Altar of Incense: used as an act of worship before the Lord. Jesus makes way to the Father for us through His prayers. His sacrifice was a sweet smelling aroma to the Father.

The second curtain: used to separate the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. In Jesus's death this curtain is torn and we are granted full and free access to God. We are all invited to draw near to God.

Mercy seat: this is seat of the throne of God. Jesus brings us before the throne of God and we are able to come to Him with confidence instead of trying to follow specific steps once a year.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How has Jesus provided light and direction for your life as your lampstand?

Why is it important to find your nourishment for life through Jesus instead of simply relying on physical food?

How does our worship provide a pleasing aroma like incense to God?

What is the difference between having a priest go behind the curtain one time a year and your having full access to draw near to God at any time?

What should our response be to the mercy of the Father?

How can we better create sacred space with God in worship?

VERSES:

Hebrews 9:1-8

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. 2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, 4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 Above the ark were the cherubim of

the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. 9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. 10 They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings-- external regulations applying until the time of the new order.