

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 7

Sanctification

Objects to have:

Objects to represent the different pieces of furniture in the tabernacle: the altar, laver, candlestick, table of shewbread, altar of incense, ark of the covenant

A picture of a group of children (Ahead of time cut out around one of the children but tape the child back into the scene.)

A sign reading SANCTIFIED

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up your Bible for the children.) This is the Bible, God's letter to His people. There are many wonderful, exciting things written in God's letter to us. I'm going to tell you another story today from the Bible.

In the Bible are stories that happened before Jesus came to earth from Heaven. Also in the Bible are stories of things that happened while Jesus was on earth. There are also stories of things that happened after Jesus went back to Heaven. Today I'm going to tell you a story of something that happened before Jesus came to earth from Heaven. Jesus was in Heaven. No person on earth had ever seen Him yet.

Telling the story:

Moses was the leader. God had chosen the man Moses to lead God's people. You have played Follow-the-Leader; whatever the leader does, you are supposed to do. Wherever the leader goes, you are supposed to go. You have played Simon Says. Whenever the leader says, "Simon says," you are to do whatever Simon says you are to do. The people were to go wherever Moses said to go. The people were to do whatever Moses said to do. Moses would tell the people where to go and what to do after God told him where they should go and what they should do.

Moses was a great man. He wanted to obey God. He wanted his people to obey God. Moses' people were called the Israelites. There were more than hundreds of Israelites; there were more than thousands of Israelites; there were millions of the people whom Moses led.

Moses was looking at a building. The building that Moses was looking at was a different kind of building. He stepped back and looked at it. His people had just finished building it. It was a very big tent. From the outside it did not look pretty at all. There were just some old gray goat skins hanging from the top down to the ground. There was a fence of white cloth around it. The building he was looking at was called the tabernacle. God the Father wanted a place where His people could come to be close to Him. Jesus had not yet died on the cross. There was no way for people to get close to God the Father, so God told them to build the tabernacle. The tabernacle was to be used for only one thing—for the people to come and get close to God. It was like a church building but a very different kind of building.

I told you already that it did not look pretty from the outside. Moses saw that it did not look pretty from the outside. Moses knew, however, that it was beautiful on the inside.

Before getting inside, there was a great big thing in the courtyard. (Place your "altar" on the table.) This great big thing was called an altar. It was built of stones and looked something like an old-fashioned furnace. People would come to the altar and bring a little lamb. The little lamb would be put on the altar and killed. Because blood came from the little lamb, the people could put their hands on the head of the little lamb and tell God about their sins. When God saw the blood, He would forgive them their sins. So, the first thing they came to in the yard was the great big altar.

God said, “The altar is only for offering animals. When the animals are killed, the people should tell Me about their sins. I will forgive their sins.” The altar could not be used for anything else. Somebody might ask, “What if there were a lot of papers in somebody’s house; could they bring the papers and burn them on the altar?” Oh, no, it could not be used for anything but sacrifices. Someone else might ask, “Could ladies bring food in pans and cook the food on the altar?” Oh, no, there was only one thing that the altar could be used for. It was used for killing animals so that God could forgive His people of their sins.

(Place the object representing the laver just beyond the altar.) Now we come to a place for washing. Only certain men were supposed to go inside the tabernacle. The rest of the people were to stay outside. Before these certain men—called priests—went inside the tabernacle, they had to wash their hands and their feet. They washed them here at the laver. What is this called? Yes, the laver. Mommies might ask, “Could we bring our babies and give them a bath here?” Oh, no, the only purpose of this laver was for washing the hands and feet of the priest. Nobody could wash their dishes here. There was only one use for the laver. It was set aside for that one use. It was only for washing the hands and feet of the priest.

Let’s pretend that we are going inside the tabernacle now. When we get inside, we are amazed at how beautiful it is. There’s gold covering everything. There are beautiful curtains hanging. They are blue and white and red. There is gold thread in the curtains. It is very, very beautiful inside the tabernacle. Everybody might want to go into the tabernacle, but God did not allow that. Only the priest could go inside. There was beauty there. As they went inside on this side, (indicate the left, and place the object representing the candlestick there) there stood a gold candlestick. There were flowers on the candlestick made of gold. It was shaped very pretty. The candlestick had many branches. Light could be lit at the end of each branch. It was very beautiful. No one could take the candlestick from the tabernacle for light in their houses; the candlestick was only for a light in the tabernacle. On this side (indicate the right side of the tabernacle) was a table. The table was covered with gold also. On the table were loaves of bread. If anybody got hungry, they could not come in and eat this bread. Oh, no, each loaf of bread stood for thousands of people. The bread was to remain on the table. What if somebody wanted to have a party and needed a big table; nobody could use that table for that. The table was only for holding this bread in the tabernacle.

Let’s pretend (place the object representing the altar of incense) that we are walking farther back into the tabernacle. We see in front of us beautiful curtains that hang from the ceiling to the floor. In front of these beautiful curtains is a little altar called the altar of incense. The priest would light the incense. The incense would smell very pretty as it burned; then the priest would pray at the altar of incense. The incense for this altar was a special incense. No person was to have this kind of incense in his house. Some people might have said, “I love to smell that incense burning. I would like to have some in my house; let me have some.” God said that they were not supposed to have it. The incense was only for the tabernacle. This altar was to be kept in the tabernacle.

Let us pretend that we are opening those beautiful curtains, and let’s walk inside the little room behind them. There was a gold-covered box in that room. The box was supposed to have certain things in it. It looked like it would be nice to store things in. Boys and girls were not to come in and put their toys in this gold-covered box. They could not use it like a toy chest. This box, called the ark of the covenant, was to be used to hold only certain things that God wanted to have in there.

We have pretended to walk through the tabernacle this morning. The tabernacle was built before Jesus came to earth. Moses was the man who told the people how God wanted the tabernacle to be built. The tabernacle and the things in the tabernacle could not be used for whatever the people wanted. It could be used only for what God said it should be used. We could say that the tabernacle was set aside for God. We could say a big, long word that means the same thing. We could say that the tabernacle was sanctified. (Teachers, say *sanctified* as if you were dividing it into syllables while saying it; have the children say it also, while holding up the sign saying SANCTIFIED.)

Do you know that everybody who loves Jesus has been sanctified? That means that everybody who loves Jesus has been separated from those who do not love Jesus. (Take the little child from the crowd.) This child will go to Heaven. These children will not. This child has been set aside to go to Heaven; these children have not. What is the difference between this child and these children? This child has asked Jesus to be his or her Saviour. The Devil doesn't want anybody to go to Heaven. Jesus, however, protects those who love Him from the Devil. He will not let him take them to Hell with him. Jesus will be sure to take those who love Him to Heaven with Him. They are set apart from the evil one.

There was one thing that was sprinkled on every piece of furniture in the tabernacle—that was blood. The blood set everything aside for God. It is through Jesus' blood that we are saved and can go to Heaven when we die. Jesus' blood sanctifies us. It sets us apart from the evil one. Since we are set aside for Jesus, we should act as Jesus would have us to act. Jesus prayed for us, "...*keep them from the evil.*" (John 17:15)

By trusting Jesus, we are set aside to go to Heaven with Him; we are sanctified. (Have the children repeat that word with you.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: John 17:15, "*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*"