

## The Big Story Lesson #6 Draw Near

### **Activity:** Jesus Is the Key

*The tabernacle that God instructed Moses to have built pointed to the fact that God did want to be with His people but He had a prescribed way for them to draw near. There are many elements and aspects of the tabernacle that point to Jesus' life, death and resurrection but one main thing: all must come to God in HIS way. Jesus is God's one and only way that sinners can come to Him.*

Jesus is the key to a relationship with God and the only way to enter heaven.

Object lesson to do with your kids:

1. **Gather:** Lots of different kinds and sizes and shapes of keys: old-fashioned keys, keys on quirky key rings, a two-foot long honorary key ("a key to the city"), hotel keys (traditional kind and the plastic card kind with the electronic code), etc. Also have a lock which can be opened by one of the keys.
2. **Explain:** Each of these keys suggests an appealing quality. This key lets you into an ornate hotel room...this old key IS ornate...this one hangs on a key ring you could never lose...this one promises shelter...this one is a ticket to a prestigious vehicle. (Explain the fantastic places and opportunities that each key offers.) Then explain that only the one key will fit the lock that you have provided.

*Some people judge their lives by the keys they possess. An education is the key to a good job, a good job is a key to power and wealth, a car key to a new sports key shows you are going places, a key to a large house reveals security and comfort. But according to scriptures there is only one destination that is important ... Heaven. And just one key that will open that destination to you... Jesus!*

3. **Conversely:** Some people say there are many different ways to God, and many ways to experience God.

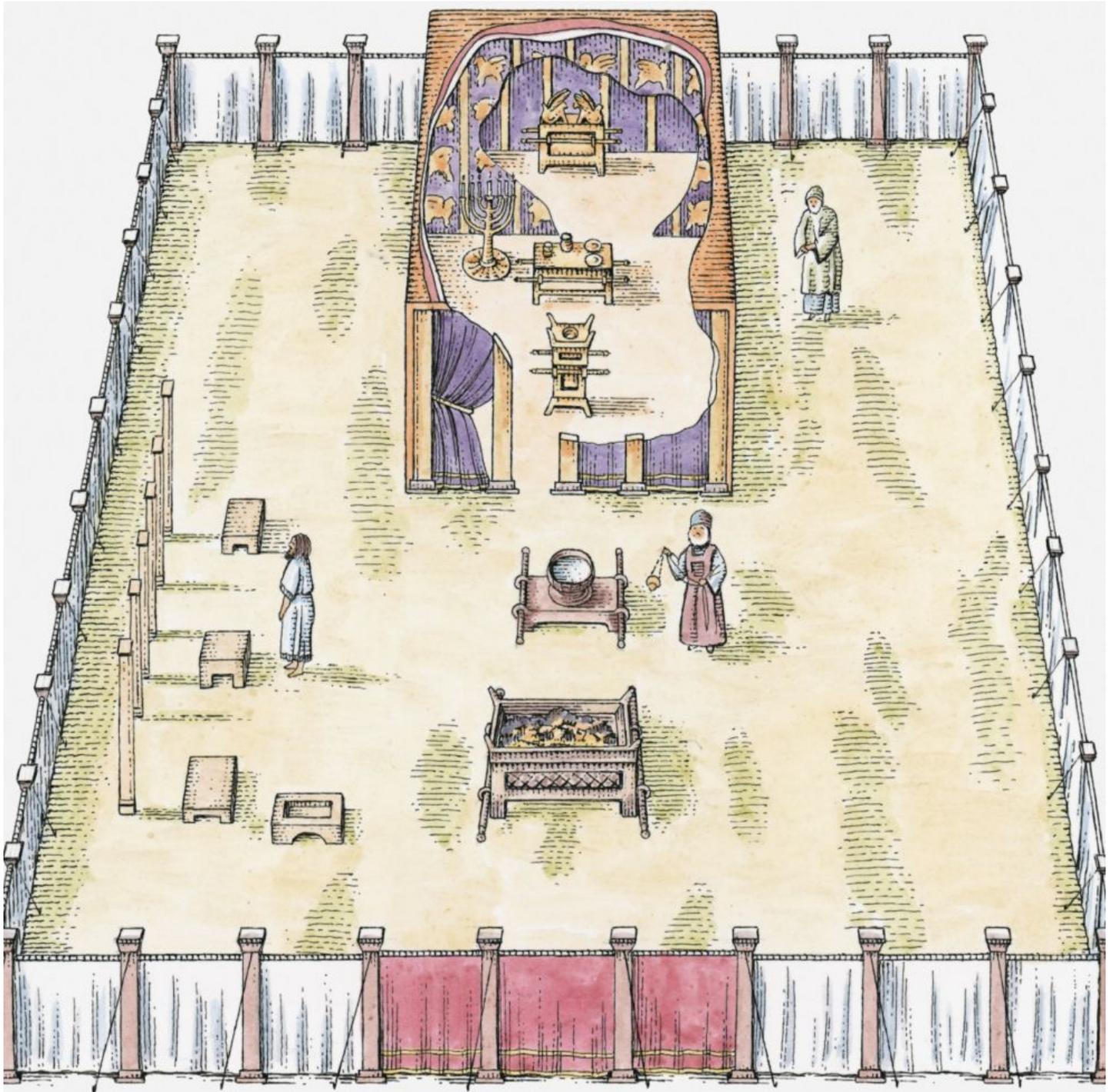
*...There are many ways to get to different places, but if your destination is God, there is only ONE WAY! This is what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the way." Jesus made claims about himself that no other leader has made. Jesus didn't say he pointed to the way, or that he knew the way, or even that he could teach the way. He said he is "the way."*

4. **Truth:** Jesus said to (Thomas,) "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

### **Grab your Bibles**

We are going to be flipping all over the Bible in order to find as many Old Testament connections to Jesus as we can. Hang in there (make finding each verse a race if that's more fun). It will be worth it in the end!

*The Israelites just crossed the Red Sea and are wandering in the desert on the way to the Promise Land. God is giving them instructions for how to build the tabernacle as the way for the Israelites to be with God. Now, the tabernacle acts as a picture image for us of what Jesus does for us every day so that we can also be with God.*



**Read Exodus 27:1-3**

When you walk through the gate of the Tabernacle the first thing you see is the Altar of Burnt Offering. Before you go any closer to God, you need a sacrifice to pay the debt for your sin.

**Read John 1:29** How is Jesus the only way to God?

**Read Exodus 30:17-21**

The next item is the bronze basin for washing. Priests had to clean their hands and feet before they could go any closer.

**Read John 4:10 and 1 John 1:9** How is Jesus the only way to God?

<p><b>Read Exodus 25:23-30</b> When Priests entered the Holy Place they would see this table with the bread stacked on it. This was a reminder of God’s daily provision.</p>	<p><b>Read John 6:35</b> How is Jesus the only way to God?</p>
<p><b>Read Exodus 25:31-40</b> Priests in the Holy Place would also see the lampstand. The light from the oil lamps would be the only light in this dark room, and they would be pointing towards the only entrance into the Holy of Holies</p>	<p><b>Read John 8:12</b> How is Jesus the only way to God?</p> <p><b>Read Matthew 5:14-16</b> After God sacrifices for our sins, washes us clean, and provides all we need, what then can we do?</p>
<p><b>Read Exodus 30:1-6</b> Different than the Altar of Burnt Offering, the Altar of Incense was made of pure gold. Priests were to be always burning fragrant incense as an offering to God.</p>	<p><b>Read Revelation 5:8</b> What does incense symbolize in the Bible?</p> <p><b>Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</b> What are we to do without ceasing?</p>
<p><b>Read Exodus 29:44-46</b> God called the tribe of Levi, and specifically Aaron and his sons to serve as his priests in the Tabernacle. God made it so that it is only through their work and participation with God’s process could the rest of Israel draw close to God.</p>	<p><b>Read Hebrews 4:14-16</b> How is Jesus the only way to God?</p> <p><b>Read 1 Peter 2:9</b> What is our role on earth?</p>

**Promise:**

“Then I will \_\_\_\_\_ among the Israelites and be their \_\_\_\_\_” Exodus 29:45

**Big Questions:**

Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What new meaning comes out in this verse after understanding a little more about the Tabernacle?

How can we as a family “draw near to God” “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess” and “spur one another on toward love and good deeds?”