

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

The Ark of the Covenant – January 15, 2023

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 Parts to the Sermon

- **The Table of Bread**
- **The Golden Lampstand**
- **The Ark of the Covenant**

I. The Table of Bread

- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:23-29
- Why do you think there is so much detail in these verses? Why was God so specific about the Tabernacle and the furniture found in it?
- What do the details found in Exodus 25 teach us about how to approach God in worship? Do you think modern Christians approach worship too casually? Why or why not?
- If one cubit is about 18 inches long, then how big was this table? Does the size of this table surprise you? Why or why not?
- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:30
- How do we know that the bread was not for God? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Psalm 50:12-15
 - Acts 17:24-25

- What did the bread represent? Read Leviticus 24:5-6 to help answer this question.
- If the Tabernacle is God's sanctuary, then how did the table & bread symbolize Israel's fellowship with God? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Psalm 23:5-6
 - Exodus 24:9-11
- How did the bread symbolize provision? Where did Israel get the bread from to put on the table?
- How did the bread point forward to Jesus? Read John 6:31-35 to help answer this question.

II. The Golden Lampstand

- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:31-32. How many branches are on this lampstand? Why is this number important?
- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:33-36. How did the lampstand resemble a tree, and why is this significant?
- How did the lampstand connect the Tabernacle to the garden?
- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:37. How does the lampstand symbolize both light and life? How did it point to God as the source of both, light & life? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Psalm 27:1
 - 1 John 1:5
 - Psalm 36:9
 - **Leader's Cheat:** *The curtains used for the Tabernacle would have been thick enough to keep out all outside light. Meaning the lampstand was the only source of light in the tabernacle.*
- In what way is a Christian like a lamp that produces light in a dark world? In what ways do Christians merely reflect God's light? How are you personally reflecting God's light in a dark world?

- How did the lampstand point Israel to Christ? Read the following verses to answer this question.
 - John 1:1-5
 - John 1:9
 - John 9:5
 - John 3:16
 - John 6:40
 - John 10:28

III. The Ark of the Covenant

- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:10-15.
 - How big was the ark? Is the size surprising for how significant it was?
 - Why did God give such detailed instructions on how to carry the ark? What would happen if you touched the ark and what does this teach us? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - 2 Samuel 6:3-9
- **Read & discuss** Exodus 25:16-21
- What was in the ark, on the ark, and above the ark?
- How do we know that God's presence was above the ark? Read the following verses to help answer this question.
 - Psalm 99:1
 - Psalm 80:1
 - 2 Kings 19:15
- How have angels been portrayed in art and popular culture? How does that compare with the biblical description of angels and their duties?
- **Read and discuss** Exodus 25:22
- How does the presence of God in the Tabernacle imply His mercy? How does this translate to the church?

- How does the ark represent God's glory? How does it represent His mercy?
- What was the mercy seat and how did it point to God's gracious character? Read Leviticus 16:15-16 to help answer this question.

Final question

- What are some of the ways the Tabernacle and its various furnishings (The Ark, the Lampstand & the Table) were fulfilled in Christ? How might the consciousness of this fulfillment enhance your worship experience? Read Hebrews 9:11 to help answer this question.

Announcements:

Men's Friday Bible Study

Fridays | 10am | Discipleship Place

Hey Men! Come let us reason together! Join us in a study of 1 Peter beginning on Friday, January 20.

Prayer for the Nations Night

Friday, January 20 | 6pm | Donckels' home: 20614 Oak Pass Ave

Join us this Friday as we gather to pray for unreached people groups. Contact Rachel Weakley at 661.805.4164 for more info.

Beasley Baby Shower

Saturday, January 21 | 2pm | The Grove

You are invited to celebrate with us as we shower love on the grandbabies of Beau & Jennifer Beasley. Hunter & Valerie are expecting TWINS (a boy and a girl)!!! Hunter and Valerie are registered at Amazon and Target. Please RSVP to Jamie Lee at 661.303.0637.

2022 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2022 have been emailed! Please check your email and be sure to download/print your statement before Thursday, 1/26, as the email link will expire. After it expires, you will still be able to access and print your statement via Church Center: log in to Church Center, go to your profile, select My Giving, and then choose Statements from the menu.