

**Aim:** To consider the differences and similarities between the Sanctuary and our Churches today.

Have you ever stopped to think that although the Sanctuary was like a Church, it was very different to the Churches that we know?

Today we are going to look at some of the differences...

### **When and Where**

#### **When do we go to Church?**

Unlike our Church, they didn't all go to the Sanctuary at the same time; but the Sanctuary was very tall, at least 4½ meters tall, and it was in the middle of the camp so they could all see it.

They didn't just go to the Sanctuary on Sabbath, but we know they kept the Sabbath because that was one of the Commandments, I guess it would have been way too hard to fit 600000 men and their wives and children all in one place...

#### **Are there place in Churches where people are not to go?**

The Israelites could only go into the courtyard, not in to the Sanctuary itself.

### **Sacrifices:**

#### **Do you know why we don't do Sacrifices anymore?**

**Read Mark 16:37, 38** - When Jesus dies on the cross, the curtain separating the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place in the Sanctuary was actually ripped in half, from top to bottom.

#### **What do we do when we know we have sinned?**

Every morning and evening the priests would offer a sacrifice for the sins of Israel, but if an Israelite knew that they had broken one of the Commandments, they had to bring a sheep or a goat to the priest to be sacrificed. (Leviticus 16)

**Who did the sacrifices remind the people of?** Jesus made the final sacrifice to pay for all of our sins, so animal sacrifices are not needed anymore.

### **How God speaks**

**How do we learn about Jesus?** (Go to Sabbath School and Church, read the Bible and Bible stories, pray etc)

The Israelites didn't have the Bible that we have today, in fact, Moses himself wrote quite a few books in the Bible. Most people agree that he wrote down the first five books. God Himself wrote down the Ten Commandments for the people, and Moses wrote down all the other instructions that God gave him, and taught them to the people.

### **How we talk to God**

#### **How do we talk to Jesus?**

Many times during their travels in the wilderness, the Bible says, "Moses talked to God" or "God talked to Moses" and then "Moses talked to the people." (If the children are good readers, get them to look through the first half of Exodus and find an example. Or see some of the following Exodus 17:4, 5; 19:3; 20:22; 32:30, 31)

### **How the Priests and their families lived**

The tribe of Levi, which included the priests, did not own land or grow their own food; instead, God said that certain parts of the sacrifices and gifts that were brought to the Sanctuary were to be used as food for the Priests and their families.

### **Tithes and offerings**

#### **Do you know what the money we give in Church is used for?**

The tithe that we give at Church is sent down to the Conference and used to pay the Pastors so that they don't have to go out and find a job to earn money to live during the week, instead, they can spend all their time working for the Church. The money that we give for offering is used for many things. Sometimes it is sent to the Conference to be used for schools or missionaries; sometimes it is kept to pay the expenses of our local Church.

The Israelites also brought tithes and offerings, but instead of bringing money, they would bring animals, grain, gold or whatever they had. Some of the things they brought were used for the Sanctuary services, some of them were used as food for the priests.

### **The presence of God**

God's presence could be seen as a light above the Ark; we don't have that today. At that point in time God had chosen the Israelites, who later became known as the Jews, as His own special people. After Jesus death, God expanded that so that anyone in the whole world can become one of God's people. We can't see God's presence in one place anymore, but we know that He is available everywhere in the whole world.