

2. THE LEVITES

The Old Testament has a lot to say about the Levites. God chose them to do some special jobs in His service. Who were the Levites?

The Levites were the descendants of Levi. Levi was one of twelve sons born to Jacob. A few months ago we studied about Joseph, who was another son born to Jacob (also called Israel).



The Levites stood by Moses after some of the Hebrew people made a golden calf to worship. Moses was very angry with the Israelites who had sinned by worshiping an idol. He threw down the tables of stone on which the ten commandments were written, and broke them. Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" He told them to come to him, and all of the sons of Levi did (Exodus 32:26).

Last week we learned about the tabernacle. It was a big tent where God could be worshiped. The Israelites were to take it with them as they traveled. God told Moses to have the Levites take care of the vessels in the tabernacle and moving the tabernacle. This was a very special job.

The Levites were to camp all around the sides of the tabernacle so they would be close to their work. The children of Israel lived in tents while they wandered in the wilderness forty years.

1. Who was Levi's father? a. Joseph b. Jacob
c. Jethro
2. How many brothers did Levi have? a. 10 b. 8
c. 11
3. What did Moses see when he came down from the mountain with the ten commandments?
a. Aaron and the people were worshiping God
b. the people were worshiping a golden calf
c. the Egyptians had come to take the Israelites back
4. Who stood by Moses when he asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" a. the Levites b. only Aaron and Miriam
c. all of the Israelites
5. What special job did God give to the Levites?
a. preparing the food each day
b. taking care of the vessels in the tabernacle
c. moving the tabernacle
d. both b and c
6. The tabernacle was: a. a huge building made of bricks b. a tent in which God could be worshiped
c. a building full of idols
7. Which of these people camped on the east side of the tabernacle? a. Moses, Aaron, and the Priests
b. the Gershonites c. the Kohathites
8. Which of these are Levites? a. Moses, Aaron, and the Priests b. the Gershonites c. The Kohathites
d. the Merarites e. all of these

NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER: RWS #105, Tabernacle and Travels is one of my favorites. Children studying these thirteen lessons will be well informed about the tabernacle, feast days, offerings, Levites, priests, etc.

When you scroll down to the next page, you will see a birds-eye-view of the tabernacle. The following page provides tents to be cut and pasted around the tabernacle, giving students an idea of where each of the Levite tribes lived.

In the instructions for lesson two (below), notice that the attendance chart is also a birds-eye-view of the tabernacle. However, children paste the rooms and furniture each week.

Another unique feature of **RWS #105** is the **description cards** which provide additional information about the rooms of the tabernacle, the furniture, Levites, priests, and the High Priest. Description cards for both age groups may be viewed at the bottom of this document, with those for older students appearing first.

Teachers' instructions for this lesson:

LESSON TWO: THE LEVITES

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to visualize where the Levites were to camp as they glue the tents. The jobs to be performed by the Levites should be explained.

Before class duplicate the lesson and activity. All ages will be gluing the tents around the tabernacle. With older students you can spend more time talking about the names of the families represented. Use contrasting colors. The tents could be gray or tan. The tabernacle might be gold. If you don't have large sheets of construction paper (17 x 11), tape two sheets of cover stock so they will be this size. Cut out the tabernacle and tents with a paper cutter if you have one. Read and follow the instructions at the bottom of the tent page.

At the beginning of class add the Most Holy Place to attendance charts. Talk about it as the children are gluing. Give them the cards to take home, describing the Most Holy Place.

Let one of the boys lead a **prayer**. Before he begins, ask if anyone has a prayer request. If there are several things mentioned, instruct the boy to write them down so he can glance at the list while he is praying.

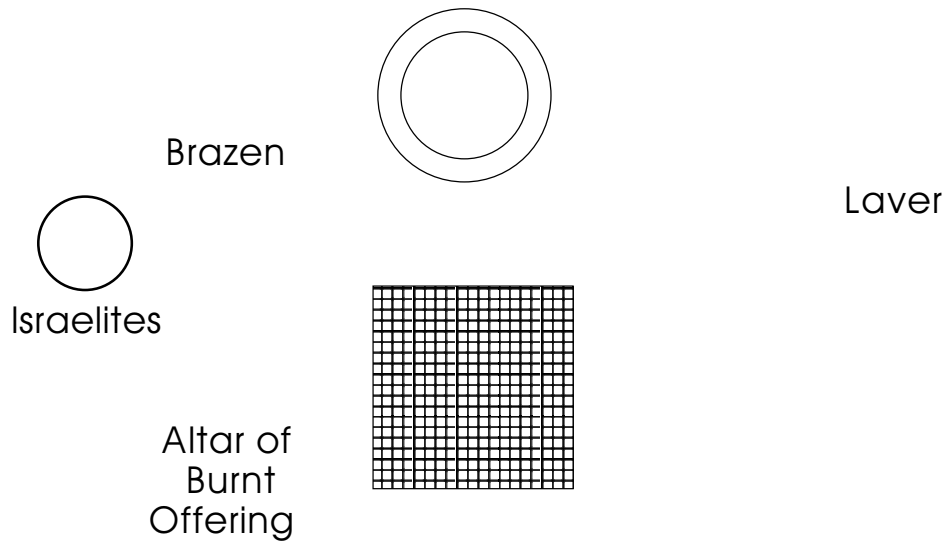
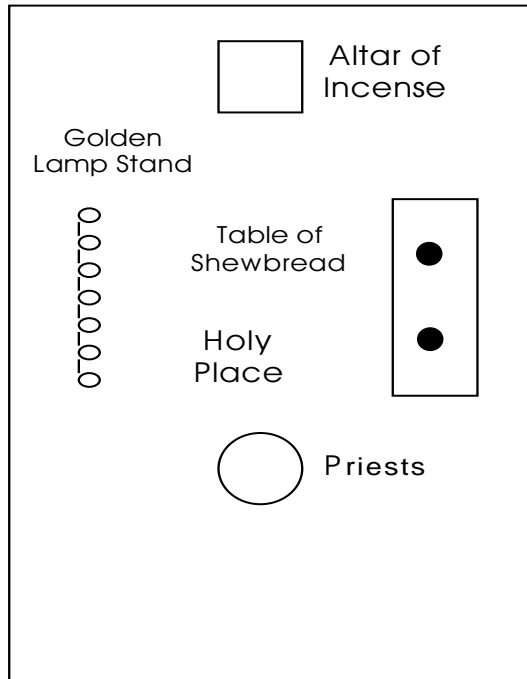
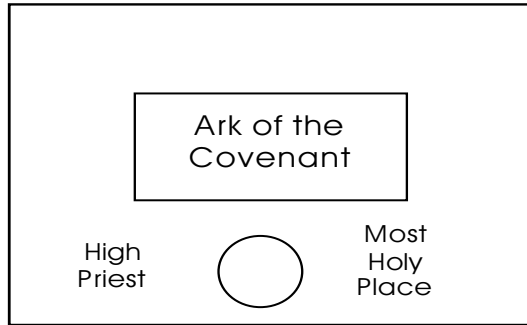
Do not read the lesson to very young children. Be prepared. As you **tell about the Levites**, ask the children a few questions, such as: Who was the father of Joseph? How many sons did Jacob have? (Explain that Levi was one of the twelve.) What did Moses see when he brought the ten commandments down from the mountain for the first time?

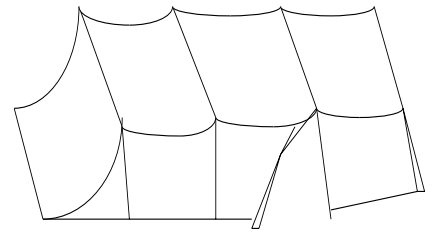
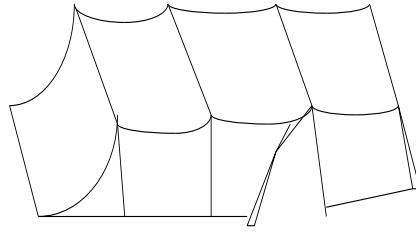
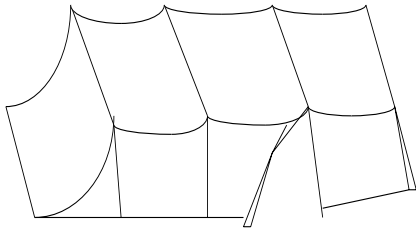
Older students may take turns reading the lesson. When they are ready to glue the tents around the tabernacle, have them write Levites in the top left corner. Then have them draw the + in the top right corner and show them where to place the N, S, E, and W. They should glue the tabernacle with the Most Holy Place on the west side. When they are done, tell them to glue as you say where each one belongs: Gershonites on the west side; Merarites on the north side; Kohathites on the south side; and Moses, Aaron, and the Priests on the east side.

Be sure to send home a copy of the memory verses with any new students.

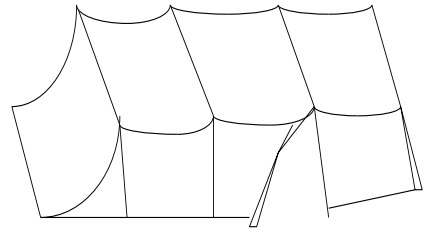
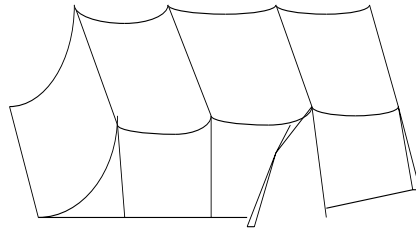
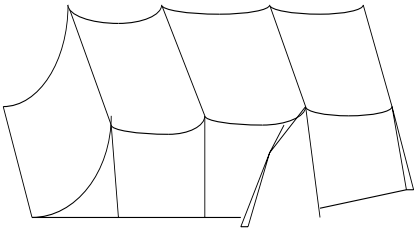
Page 2: 1. b; 2. c; 3. b; 4. a; 5. d; 6. b; 7. a; 8. e.

TABERNACLE

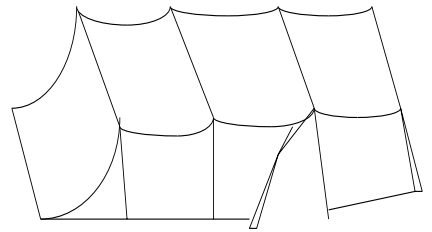
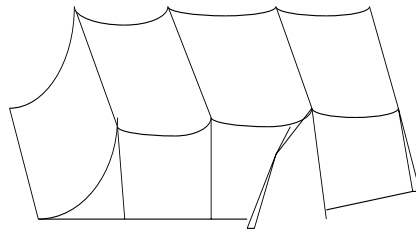
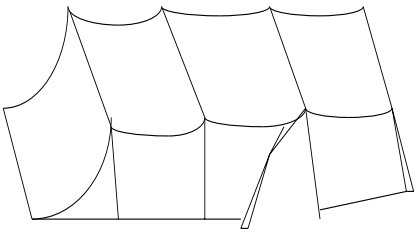




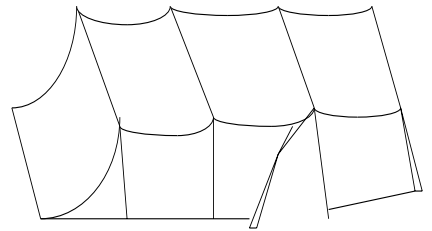
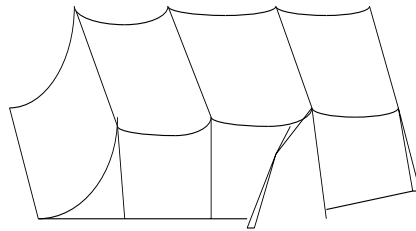
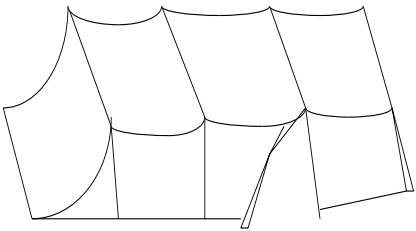
GERSHONITES



KOHATHITES



MERARITES



MOSES, AARON, AND THE PRIESTS

Teacher: Cut with paper cutter. Give each child four strips with three tents on each strip, labeled as to the families living in a given area. Explain that there would have been many more tents, but these will give us the idea of the Levites camping around the Tabernacle. The Levite family names can be found in Numbers 26:57. Use construction paper (size 17 x 11) or tape two sheets of cover stock together. Have the children paste the tabernacle so the Most Holy Place is to the left (west) and the Altar of Burnt Offering is to the right (east). Then have them paste the Gershonites on the left (west), the Merarites at the top (north), the Kohathites at the bottom (south) and Moses, Aaron, and the Priests to the right (east). Write LEVITES in the top left corner. For third and fourth graders, draw a + in the top right corner and label it N, S, E, and W. Have a sample ready to show.

©2001, Hanna Publications. May be reproduced for classroom or home use only.

WHAT IS A SHADOW?

Colossians 2:17 calls things under the old law, “a **shadow** of things to come.” Hebrews 10:1 says, “For the law having a **shadow** of good things to come, and not the very image of the things....”

Think about your shadow as you walk along the road on a sunny day. It is shaped a little like you, but it isn't your body. It is only an image of your body. We are going to learn about the tabernacle and the furniture found in the tabernacle. These things, in most cases, were a **shadow** of what we can now have as Christians in Christ's church.

1. HOLY PLACE

The first room in the tabernacle was called the Holy Place. Only the priests could enter the Holy Place. The whole tabernacle was made in such a way that it could be moved from place to place.

The Holy Place was a **shadow** of the church (Exodus 26:31-17; Hebrews 10:19-22). The ones who could enter into the Holy Place were the priests. Christians are called priests in the New Testament (1 Peter 2:5.9; Rev. 1:6 & 5:10).

2. MOST HOLY PLACE

Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place (also called the Holy of Holies). It was a smaller room. It could only be entered by going through the Holy Place. God appeared in this room and spoke from the Mercy Seat on the Ark.

The Most Holy Place was a **shadow** of heaven. The only way to get into the Most Holy Place was to go through the Holy Place. The only way to get into heaven is to go through the church, which belongs to Christ.

3. PRIESTS

The priests were men who were set apart to do God's work. They were in charge of the feasts and the offering of sacrifices. The priests could go into the Holy Place, but they could not go into the Most Holy Place.

The priests were a **shadow** of Christians. Christians are called priests in the New Testament (1 Peter 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6 & 5:10). The priests served God daily in the Holy Place, just as Christians are to serve God daily as a part of the church.

4. THE HIGH PRIEST

One man served as High Priest. Aaron was the first High Priest. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place to worship God once a year. There were 67 High Priests from Aaron until the old law ended.

The High Priest was a **shadow** of Christ becoming our High Priest. In Hebrews 9:11,12 we learn: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come...Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood." Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins.

5. ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING

Animal sacrifices were offered on the Altar of Burnt Offering by the Priests. It was located in front of the tabernacle. For some offerings, blood from the sacrifice was sprinkled on the four horns of the altar. Under the new law, animal sacrifices are not required.

Animal sacrifices were a **shadow** of the sacrifice Jesus would offer once when He died on the cross. Hebrews 10:4 says, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

6. THE VEIL

The veil separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. It was purple, blue, and red. Only the High Priest could go through the veil in the Most Holy Place. The veil covered the ark when the tabernacle was moved.

When the Israelites worshiped in the temple in Jerusalem, there was a veil separating the two rooms. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil was ripped from the top to the bottom by God.

7. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

The altar of incense was in front of the veil in the tabernacle. It was made of wood and covered with gold. Only incense could be burned on this altar. Only Aaron or one of the priests could burn the incense.

God did not command that we burn incense as part of our worship service in the Christian Age. Our prayers are sweet incense to God (Rev. 5:8, 8:3). These verses mention the prayers of the saints. All Christians are saints.

8. ARK OF THE COVENANT

The ark was a box covered with gold. The mercy seat was on top of the ark. Inside the ark God commanded that three items be kept: a pot of manna, the tables of stone with the ten commandments, and Aaron's rod that budded.

There were four rings, one in each corner of the top of the ark. Rods were placed through the ark so it could be carried without being touched. The ark was covered with the veil when it was moved.

9. THE MERCY SEAT

The mercy seat was on top of the ark of the covenant. It was made of pure gold, with two cherubim on top. They were to face each other, with their wings spread out. God spoke to Moses from the mercy seat (Ex. 25:22).

The High Priest was to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat one day each year. The blood was for the sins of the people. Now Christ is our High Priest. It is Christ's blood that takes away sins (Heb. 9:7-12).

10. GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

The golden lampstand had seven lamps. There was one in the center, and three came out of each side. There was a little bowl on each one in which was placed the pure olive oil to be burned.

In the Christian Age, the church is like the lamps. Jesus spoke to John in a vision, telling him about the good and bad in seven different churches. Jesus explained that "the seven candlesticks [lampstands] which thou sawest are the seven churches" (Rev. 1:20).

11. TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

The table of showbread was across from the golden lampstand in the Holy Place. On it were 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israelites. There were two stacks of six each. The bread was replaced each Sabbath.

In the Christian Age we are to partake of the unleavened bread and grape juice once each week, on Sunday (Acts 20:7). All Christians are God's chosen ones now, as the Israelites were God's chosen people.

12. BRAZEN LAVER

The brazen laver is also called the bronze laver. The color was copper or a shade of brown. It was a large container in which the priests were to wash their hands and feet before entering the tabernacle (Ex. 30:19).

In the Christian Age, people must be baptized to wash away their sins in order to be added to the church (Acts 2:38,42; 16:22). Christians are called "priests" (Rev. 1:5,6). Like the priests of old, we must be washed before entering the holy place (the church).

13. ISRAELITES

The Israelites could only go into the outer court. They could not enter the Holy Place. Only the priests and the high priest could go into the Holy Place.

The outer court is similar to the world in which we live. In the world we find those who are unsaved (John 3:17, 12:47, 17:16). Christians must live in the world, just as the priests and the high priest had to go through the outer court to enter the Holy Place (1 John 5:19).

13. ISRAELITES

The Israelites could only go into the outer court. They could not enter the Holy Place. Only the priests and the high priest could go into the Holy Place.

13. ISRAELITES

The Israelites could only go into the outer court. They could not enter the Holy Place. Only the priests and the high priest could go into the Holy Place.

1. HOLY PLACE

The first room in the tabernacle was called the Holy Place. Only the priests could enter the Holy Place. The whole tabernacle was made in such a way that it could be moved from place to place.

4. THE HIGH PRIEST

One man served as High Priest. Aaron was the first High Priest. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place to worship God one day a year. There were 67 High Priests from Aaron until the Mosaical priesthood ended.

2. MOST HOLY PLACE

Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place (also called the Holy of Holies). It was a smaller room. It could only be entered by going through the Holy Place. God appeared in this room and spoke from the Mercy Seat on the Ark.

5. ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING

Animal sacrifices were offered on the Altar of Burnt Offering by the Priests. It was located in front of the tabernacle. For some offerings, the blood from the sacrifice was sprinkled on the four horns of the altar. Under the new law, animal sacrifices are not required.

3. PRIESTS

The priests were men who were set apart to do God's work. They were in charge of the feasts and the offering of sacrifices. The priests could go into the Holy Place, but they could not go into the Most Holy Place.

6. THE VEIL

The veil separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. It was purple, blue, and red. Only the High Priest could go through the veil in the Most Holy Place. The veil covered the ark when the tabernacle was moved.

7. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

The altar of incense was in front of the veil in the tabernacle. It was made of wood and covered with gold. Only incense could be burned on this altar. Only Aaron or one of the priests could burn the incense.

10. GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

The golden lampstand had seven lamps. There was one in the center, and three came out of each side. There was a little bowl on each one in which was placed the pure olive oil to be burned.

8. ARK OF THE COVENANT

The ark was a box covered with gold. The mercy seat was on top of the ark. Inside the ark God commanded that three items be kept: a pot of manna, the tables of stone with the ten commandments, and Aaron's rod that budded.

11. TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

The table of showbread was across from the golden lampstand in the Holy Place. On it were 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israelites. There were two stacks of six each. The bread was replaced each Sabbath.

9. THE MERCY SEAT

The mercy seat was on top of the ark of the covenant. It was made of pure gold, with two cherubim on top. They were to face each other, with their wings spread out. God spoke to Moses from the mercy seat (Ex. 25:22).

12. BRAZEN LAVER

The brazen laver is also called the bronze laver. The color was copper or a shade of brown. It was a large container in which the priests were to wash their hands and feet before entering the tabernacle (Ex. 30:19).