

TALKS ON THE SANCTUARY FOR CHILDREN

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REFERENCE SOURCES: *Education* 35,36; *Patriarchs and Prophets* 343-558; *SDA Bible Commentary*; *The Cross and Its Shadow*, by Haskell; *The Path to the Throne of God* by Sarah Peck (may be obtained from Educational Felt Aids, 205 Cold Springs Rd., Angwin, Calif. 94508); *Christ In the Sanctuary*, E. G. White compilation (at your Book & Bible House); *The Sanctuary and Its Services*, by Leslie Hardinge (from PUC Book Store, Angwin, Calif. 94508)

JESUS AND THE BEAUTIFUL CHURCH – Devotional Talk No. 1

Aim: To point children to Jesus and help them understand the meaning of Christ Our Righteousness.

Memory Gem: John 1:29 Use Bible each week and show children that these memory gems come from the Bible. You can have them find them in their Bible with help if desired.

Illustrative material needed: Flannel board, 32" by 48", court, picture of Jesus standing, large letter S (36). If possible, a piece of white linen or white silk. This is a brief outline and can be enlarged upon.

Story:

Many years ago God said to Moses, "I want you and the children of Israel to build me a sanctuary (church, a beautiful, beautiful church). I want to come and live with you." What a wonderful thing. Isn't it lovely that God the Father and Jesus love us so much they want to live with us?

So Moses and the people started to build this church. Their church did not look like our church does for they were traveling and had to prepare a church that could be moved.

Everything in it was to represent Jesus and was to teach those people and also to teach us, how we can become like Jesus.

First they made pure white linen curtains. (Show linen) These curtains were to make a large fence entirely around the church yard and this was called a court. There was just one gate to the court, but the curtains at the gate were made of pretty purple linen with bright red and blue woven into it. I would have like to have seen that gate, wouldn't you?

The white curtains represented the pure clean life which Jesus lived when He was a (little) boy. Jesus liked to play just like you do, but never once did He get angry with His playmates. Never once did He quarrel with them or hit them. Jesus always obeyed His mother, and when tempted to tell a lie, He said "No", to Satan.

Jesus wants to make us good and true just like He was. He wants to make us clean and pure like those clean white curtains. When Satan tempts us to tell a lie or be cross and angry, we must quickly ask Jesus to take the naughty

thought away and for Him to stay with us and keep us pure from sin like He was. Learning our Bible memory verses helps us. We can repeat our Bible memory verses as Jesus did when Satan tempted Him.

The gate, too, represented Jesus. Just as there was only one gate, so Jesus is the only one who can keep us from being naughty when Satan tempts us. It is just as though Jesus was giving us a lovely white robe to put on.

Next week we shall talk about some things which we would have seen in that church yard if we had lived at that time.

Note: If necessary, give one or two talks to the children explaining who the Israelites were. This would refresh the minds of the children on the story of the Exodus.

JESUS OUR SAVIOUR – Devotional Talk No. 2

Aim: To help the children understand the meaning of the word "Justification" and the experience of having our sins forgiven.

Memory Gem: John 3:16 or 1 John 1:9

Illustrative material: Flannel board, court (1), altar of burnt offering (8), a lamb (20), cross (21), the word "Justification" (44).

Story:

Today we are going to step inside the church yard, or court. The first thing we see is this large altar (place altar). It was about eight feet seven inches square and was made similar to a large stove. You could burn wood in the top of it. This altar was covered with bronze that looked like this penny (show a penny to illustrate color). Each morning and evening a dear little lamb was killed and placed with wood upon the altar and burned. The little lamb had no sins and Jesus had no sins, but He died in our place for our sins so someday we could live with Him in heaven. While this was being done the people gathered around the court and prayed and asked Jesus to forgive their sins, for they knew that just as that little lamb died and was burned upon the altar, so Jesus would die upon the cross for us (place cross beside altar). We are so sorry that dear Jesus had to die for our sins, but we are very grateful that Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die. We are happy that His Father loved us so much He would let Jesus die for us.

Just as the people prayed each morning and evening for the forgiveness of their sins, so each morning we kneel and pray and ask Jesus to be with us all day long and help us to be good just like Jesus was; and each night we kneel by our beds and ask Jesus to forgive all our sins and to send angels to keep us all through the night.

When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins He does forgive our sins for He says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. (1 John 1:9). When Jesus forgives our sins this is called Justification. That is such a long word. Justification comes from the word "just" which means "good". When we say that someone is "just" that means they are good. Justification means that Jesus loves us and forgives all our sins. (Place the word Justification (44) over the cross).

JESUS WASHES CLEAN – Devotional Talk No. 3

Aim: To teach the real meaning of baptism.

Memory Gem: Psalms 51:7 or 10

Illustrative material: Flannel board, court (1), brazen altar (8), laver (7), Sinner being baptized (13), Preacher (14), Bible (32).

Story:

Last week we talked about the altar of burnt offering that was in the court which taught the people that someday Jesus would die on the cross for the sins of every boy and girl, every mother and daddy. We learned that when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins He will forgive them. This is called Justification.

Today we want to talk about the large wash bowl that was in this church yard. It, too, was made of bronze. This bowl was called a laver and stood in front of the door of the church. The ministers in this church were called priests, and before they could go inside the church they must always wash their hands and feet in the water in this laver.

God wanted to teach the Israelites and us that we must be very clean. He wants our bodies clean, He wants our clothes clean, and most of all He wants our hearts clean. He does not want selfishness in our lives. He does not want us to use cross words. He wants us to be kind.

You have seen people baptized, haven't you? (Place sinner being baptized and preacher by laver). Perhaps you have even seen your own mother and daddy baptized. When people are put down under the water that means that God wants to take away all their sins. It is just as though their sins were all washed away. As the minister lifts them up out of the water, so God wants to cleanse them from all sin and to keep them from sinning. Some day you want to be baptized don't you?

Next week we want to look inside the church.

BUILDING THE TABERNACLE OR CHURCH – Devotional Talk No. 4

Aim: To teach reverence for God's house.

Memory Gem: Lev. 19:30

Illustrative material: Flannel board, court (1), brazen altar (8), laver (9), sanctuary (23).

Story:

The tabernacle, or church, which God told Moses to build did not have many rooms in it like our church has. Oh no. It had only two rooms in it, but it was very beautiful. All the boards used to build the church were covered with gold. How they did shine in the light. It must have been very beautiful to see. Just as there was only one gate to the court, so there was only one door to the tabernacle. Before this door hung a curtain very similar to the one at the gate of the court, and there were golden angels woven into it. This door and curtain represented Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6) Did you know that we could not go to heaven if Jesus hadn't died for us? There were four coverings for the roof. The first (3) was a lovely piece of linen like the curtain at the door, the next (4) covering was woven of goat's hair, the third (5) was red and was made of ram's skins, and over all was a covering (6) of seals skins to keep the church nice and dry when it rained.

There was one thing about this church which I am sure would seem strange to you. There were no windows in this church. How did it have light? We will learn about that later.

No one was permitted to enter the tabernacle but the ministers who were called priests. You remember I told you that even the priests had to wash both their hands and feet before entering the church. Jesus was showing the people how reverent we should be when we are in God's house. Sometimes people laugh and talk in the church, but this makes Jesus very sad. I'm sure we shall remember to always be very quiet when we come to church each Sabbath.

GOD'S PRIESTS OR MINISTERS – Devotional Talk No. 5

Aim: To teach purity and God's love for us.

Memory Gem: 1 John 4:8

Illustrative material: court (1), flannel board, brazen altar (8), laver (7), sanctuary building (2), common priest (10), high priest (34)

Story:

When God gave Moses instruction for the building of the tabernacle, He also told Moses how the priests who cared for the tabernacle should dress. Today we call the men who preach to us each Sabbath our minister; but when the tabernacle was built they were called priests.

Most of the priests wore a plain, clean white robe and white turban, or hat. Every time the people saw one of their priests in his clean white robe they were to remember that God wanted to make their hearts clean. That is what God wants us to remember today, too.

There was one man who was the leading priest. (Show priest 34). He was called the high priest. His robe was more beautiful than the robes of the other priests. On his breast he wore a breastplate with twelve gems in it. On each jewel was the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Just as the high priest carried the names of the people on that breastplate, just so God remembers each of us and loves us so very, very much. Did you know that Jesus knows every one of your names? He knows what you look like and He even knows how many hairs are in your head. You don't even know that about yourself do you? Jesus would have come and died if there was just one little girl or one little boy that had done wrong. I want to please Jesus so I can go home with Him don't you?

JESUS IN THE BIBLE – Devotional Talk No. 6

Aim: To teach the importance of Bible study and that in the Bible we see Jesus.

Memory Gem: John 5:39 or 2 Tim. 3:15

Illustrative material: Flannel board, altar of burnt offering (8), laver (7), sanctuary (23), small Bible (32), table of shewbread (30).

Story:

Today we shall peek inside the church. How different it looks from our church. This church was called a tabernacle and only had two rooms. The people could not enter the tabernacle, only the priests could see the inside of this church. It was such a holy place God told the priests that not only were they to wash their hands and feet before entering, but they must be very reverent and quiet. How very, very quiet we should be when we are in God's house.

We should never run and play in His holy house, for the church is where we come to meet with God.

As we peek inside the holy place, as the first room was called, we see a table of shewbread like this one, all covered with gold. (Place table of shewbread in first apartment). This table was made with a beautiful golden crown all around it. On the table were loaves of bread. Fresh bread was placed on the table each Sabbath morning. We are to come to Sabbath School each Sabbath to learn new stories about Jesus and heaven.

Jesus tells us He is the Bread of Life (John 5:58, 63). That means that Jesus will help us live a good kind life like He lived. How can we learn about the life of Jesus? That is right. When we read the Bible we learn about Jesus, we learn how to live clean pure lives. When we study our Sabbath School lessons, when we learn our Bible memory verses, we are learning about Jesus.

WHEN WE TALK TO JESUS – Devotional Talk No. 7

Aim: To teach the true meaning of prayer and loving deeds.

Memory Gem: Matt. 7:7.

Illustrative material: Flannel board, court (1), brazen altar (8), laver (7), sanctuary (2), table of shewbread (30), sanctuary (23), altar of incense (28), incense candle.

Story:

The next piece of furniture which we find in the church of the Israelites was the altar of incense (Place altar (28) in sanctuary). It too was made of wood covered over with gold. How beautiful this tabernacle must have been with all this lovely golden furniture.

Each morning and evening the priest put incense upon this altar to be burned. As the sweet fragrance filled the air the people gathered outside the tabernacle for prayer. They were asking Jesus to make their lives lovely like the fragrance of that incense. (Burn incense candle).

Jesus likes to have us talk to Him. We can talk to Him just like we talk to our mothers and fathers. He likes to have us tell Him we love Him because He loves us. God likes to have us ask Him to keep us from doing naughty things and to help us to be kind to our playmates and brothers and sisters. When we smile that makes our lives happy just like the fragrance of this incense. That is the way Jesus' life was.

JESUS MAKES US SHINE – Devotional Talk No. 8

Aim: To help the children understand how Jesus is the "Light of the world" and how we too are to be lights of this world.

Memory Gem: Matthew 5:14

Illustrative material: Flannel board, court (1), brazen altar (8), laver (7), sanctuary (23), table of shewbread (30), altar of incense (28), candlestick (31), and a candle.

Story:

You remember we learned when studying about the building of the tabernacle, that it had no windows? Now to-day we shall talk about the one light which this tabernacle had. It was in the holy room and was made entirely of gold, beaten until it shone like a mirror. (Place candlestick (31) in sanctuary).

As you can see it had seven lights on it. Perhaps your mother has some candles in candlesticks at home. We like candles for they make a pretty light.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world (John 9:5)." Jesus was kind to every one; He made sick people well; He told them how to live good clean lives so that they could some day live up in heaven.

Jesus also tells us we are to be a bright shining light (Matt. 5:14). How do you think we can be a light? I think we can make our light shine by obeying our mothers and fathers, by being kind to our brothers and sisters, and by bringing our little friends and playmates to Sabbath School with us. Then we are making others happy like Jesus did. (Have children tell ways they can shine.)

GOD'S MOST HOLY ROOM – Devotional Talk No. 9

Aim: To teach the importance of God's law, and especially the Sabbath.

Memory Gem: Ps. 119:9 or Ps. 19:7 or Ps. 40:8

Illustrative material: Flannel board, court (1), brazen altar (8), laver (7), sanctuary (23), table of shewbread (30), altar of incense (28), candlestick (31), and ark (26), inside of ark (27).

Story:

Now we may look into the second room of God's church in the wilderness. There was just one piece of furniture in that room, but it was very beautiful and very important. This piece of furniture was called the ark (Show ark 26). (Put inside of ark (27) behind ark (26) when put on board so when you take (26) off (27) will show.) You can see it looks like a box. It was made of wood, but covered both inside and outside with gold. The top of the ark was a piece of pure gold. Look at the lovely golden angels looking down at the ark. They seem to be guarding something precious inside. Let us look inside and see what is there.

What do we see? We see God's holy law. This is the ten commandment law which God wrote on stone with His own finger. This law tells us also to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Let us all say together, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

How happy we are that God gave us the lovely Sabbath day. What are the things which we enjoy doing on the Sabbath? First we love to come to Sabbath School, and we enjoy going for a long walk on the Sabbath to watch the birds, the flowers, and all of God's pretty creatures. On the Sabbath we can go to visit some one who is lonely or sick and take them some flowers. Let us all close our eyes and fold our hands and thank God for the Sabbath day.

Note: Instead of the leader naming the things which we can do on the Sabbath, it is well to let the children name these various acts.

GOD'S LOVING CARE – Devotional Talk No. 10

Aim: To impress anew God's love and care for us.

Memory Gem: Matthew 6:11

Illustrative material: The court and tabernacle with furniture for each.

Story:

Last week we talked about the law of God which was in the ark. But today let us look inside the ark again. We see something else in the ark – what is it? – a golden pot. Why was this golden pot in the ark? What was in the pot?

(Tell the story of the giving of the manna and explain that some of the manna was preserved in the ark. Stress God's care for the people.)

Once when Jesus was upon the earth He was sitting upon the hillside talking to the people. Many of these people were very poor and were worried for fear they would not have bread for their little children. Others were worried over their future needs. Jesus said to all these people, "Do not worry. Watch the birdies. They do not have fields of grain, or gardens; but God cares for them." Have you seen the birds searching in the garden for food? Have you heard them happily singing among the branches of the trees? God is caring for each little bird, and He will care for us.

Each morning as we eat our breakfast we should bow our heads and say thank you to Jesus for giving us all the good food and nice homes which we have, for God gives us these things because He loves us.

GOD CHOOSES HIS MINISTERS – Devotional Talk No. 11

Aim: To help the children realize that God has His leaders, and to help them understand proper respect for leadership.

Memory Gem: Lev. 19:32

Illustrative material: The court and tabernacle with furniture for each. Also have an almond branch. High Priest (34).

Story:

Again we shall look inside this beautiful ark for there is one more article in this ark for us to see. It is the branch of an almond tree. (Show real branch.) I am sure you must wonder why God had Moses place an almond branch in this golden ark. Well God always has a good reason for asking us to do something, and He had a good reason this time, too.

(Tell story of rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram found in the *Bible Story*, Vol. 3, pg. 32.)

So God let the Israelites know just whom He had chosen to be His priests or ministers.

God chose Aaron to be His high priest. The high priest wore a blue robe over his white one. (Show high priest 34). Over this he wore a coat called an ephod, and a breastplate with lovely gems in it. These stones are the same as the foundations of the New Jerusalem. Jesus calls all the children His Jewels. (Mal. 3:17)

God still has ministers whom He has chosen. We have a minister of God in our church. (Have the children give his name.) Ministers are to tell us all about the Bible. They are to give the words of God to us. We should pray for them each day in our prayers when we pray for our mother and father, and our friends. We should pray that God will help them tell others about Jesus. Shall we try real hard to remember this each day?

GETTING READY TO MEET JESUS --Devotional Talk No. 12

Aim: To impress upon the children the truth that to be ready to go home with Jesus we must let Him purify our lives now.

Memory Gem: John 14:3

Illustrative material: The court and tabernacle with the furniture of each. The cross of Christ (21).

Story:

For several weeks we have been talking about God's church which was built in the wilderness. We learned that everything in this church was to point the people to Jesus.

1. There was just one gate which teaches us that Jesus is our only Saviour.
2. These clean white curtains represent the perfect life of Jesus.
3. The Lamb dying upon the altar points us to the death of Jesus for us upon the cross. (Place the cross beside the altar.)
4. As there was a laver where the priests washed their hands and feet, so we must ask Jesus to cleanse us from all sin and make us ready to be baptized as Jesus was.
5. In the holy room we found the table of shewbread which represents Jesus, and the Bible which tells us about Jesus; the altar of incense which represents our prayers and the pure life of Jesus which He will give us; and the candlestick which represents Jesus the light of the world, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
6. In the ark we found the ten commandments. Everything about the sanctuary pointed to Jesus and still teaches us how to get ready to meet Him. (Talk about Jesus' coming and the children getting ready to go home with Him. Have consecration prayer.)