

# LEAD SHEET

**EXODUS: AFTER THE SEA WAS PARTED - WK 11**

## **THE MERCY SEAT**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2016**

**THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:**

### **SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY**

If you want to know God better, tell other people about Him!

### **GETTING STARTED**

**General Discussion:**

- Do you know what the Tabernacle was?  
*(The dwelling place of God in the OT, a mobile tent that the Israelites set up wherever they were.)*
- Why was it important?  
*(It was the dwelling place of God, and therefore the center of worship among the community.)*

As we've been studying Exodus, we've learned that God was always present with His people in the wilderness. In today's lesson, we will learn how God's presence was displayed in a very physical way.

### **DIGGING IN**

**Read Exodus 25:10-22, Hebrews 9:1-7**

Here we are introduced to the Ark of the Covenant (verses 10-16) and the Mercy Seat (verses 17-22). Though they are only parts of the Tabernacle, both the Mercy Seat and the Ark of the Covenant hold great significance for God's people. Let's look more closely at these two parts of the Tabernacle.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Where was the Ark of Covenant located within the Tabernacle? (*The Most Holy Place also known as the Holy of Holies.*)
2. Why is this significant? (*Only priests could access the Most Holy Place and then only once per year. [See Hebrews 9:7]*)
3. What does the Ark hold? (*Gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff, and the tablets containing the Ten Commandments.*)
4. How should the Ark be transported? (*It should be carried using a system of rings and poles.*)
5. Why is the Ark to be transported so reverently? (*It is holy.*)

The Ark of the Covenant—later called the Ark of the Testimony—is holy. It is so holy, in fact, that humans cannot touch it.

### **Read 2 Samuel 6:3-7**

In 2 Samuel, the Ark is transported on a cart that has been ritually cleaned, but remember, God commanded that it be carried by a system of poles and rings. In verse 5, the phrase “before the Lord,” shows us that the Lord was present. Uzzah touches the Ark to prevent it from falling, but he and those with him were wrong to transport it by cart instead of the way God commanded.

The Ark is very holy and should have been treated accordingly. Next, let's take a look at the Mercy Seat.

### **Read Exodus 25:19-22**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Where is the Mercy Seat? (*The lid on top of the ark is known as the Mercy Seat.*)
2. What is on the Mercy Seat? (*Two golden cherubim.*)
3. Where are their faces looking? (*Toward the Mercy Seat.*)

4. What does it mean for the people of Israel now that they are building this home/throne for God? *(God is keeping His promises. He is with them.)*

5. Where does the Lord say that He is? *(He is above the Mercy Seat between the two cherubim.)*

As mentioned earlier, priests entered into the Holy Place, but only high priests could enter the Most Holy Place once per year on the Day of Atonement by offering a sacrifice to God in the Holy Place; the sacrifice was the blood of a goat or calf that was without blemish. Between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place there was a veil to create separation.

## **MAKING IT REAL**

### **Read Hebrews 9:11-28**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does this passage mean for us? *(Christ is the high priest and we have eternal redemption through Him.)*

2. What happens to the ‘tent’ or the tabernacle now that Jesus is the high priest? Why? *(It is perfected, because it is a reflection of heavenly things.)*

3. Does Jesus have to keep entering in the Most Holy Place and offer up a sacrifice? Why not or why not? *(He appeared once and for all, sacrificed once and for all, and is sufficient for forgiveness once and for all because He is perfect. The tabernacle was just a shadow of things to come. Jesus is perfect fulfillment of all those things.)*

4. Of what does the sacrifice of Jesus portray? *(The presence of God among us. We don't need to make a blood sacrifice to be in the presence of God, nor do we need to be a high priest—Jesus bridged that gap for us.)*

5. How does it impact you to know that God is with you?  
*(Like Israel, it is comforting, inspiring, convicting, etc.)*

6. Does it change the way you will live your life with faith?  
*(It should give us confidence.)*

7. Will it change the way you live out your faith? *(It should empower us with boldness.)*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray that that God will continue to be present in the lives of your students, helping them to live boldly in their faith.