

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: January 4, 2015

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: The Priesthood

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 28:1-43; 39:1-31; Leviticus 1:1- 6:13

AIM: To see that God desires a people who will serve Him by praying for others and serving others.

MEMORY VERSES: Isaiah 56:7b "...For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples." Joshua 24:24b "...Jehovah our God we will serve, and to His voice we will listen."

SUGGESTED SONGS: 2 (Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall follow Me); 171 (Whisper a Prayer); 175 (God's Helper); 176 (God Uses Helpers); 178 (Through Me); 1614 (Cooperation); 4607 (Moses and God); 9313 (Our God is Living; Bible Story Songs-Daniel #13); 9031 (If You Ever See a Needy One; BSS-Mark #12); 9032 (We're Gonna Be God's Servin' Children; BSS-Mark #13); 9042 (I Can Come to Jesus Every Single Day; BSS-Mark #23); 9044 (He Came Serving; BSS-Mark #25)

NOTE TO TEACHERS: For this lesson, like the lesson on the Tabernacle, you will need to determine how much detail is appropriate for your level. It is again highly recommended that you would use various visual aids in order to keep the children's attention and make the lesson interesting.

BACKGROUND: Last week we saw that even after God gave Moses the law, He still continued to speak to Moses on Mt. Sinai. He told Moses that He wanted a home and He showed Him the pattern of His home. What more do you think could be on the Lord's heart? Well, once the Lord's home was built, He needed some people to take care of it. So He continued to speak to Moses. He wanted a very special people to care for His very special house. The group of people who served in the tabernacle were called priests. They served God and man by praying and by making sacrifices for the people's sins. (Sacrifices were animals that were used to obtain forgiveness of sins.) God talked to Moses about the special clothing and specific duties (jobs) for the priests.

CONTENT:

Only the priests could enter into the tabernacle because they were cleansed and represented God's people. There was one High Priest and ordinary priests. Only the High Priest was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies, the innermost part of the tabernacle, once a year.

I. Holy Garments (Exodus 28:1-43; 39:1-31)

A. The High Priest

The High Priest wore the following clothes (show pictures to help the children visualize):

1. The Ephod—This two piece garment had one piece covering the back and one piece covering the front. The pieces were held together at the shoulder by two straps with shoulder pieces. On the top of each of the shoulder pieces there was an onyx stone **engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel**—six tribes on each stone.

2. The Breastplate—The breastplate was bound to the two shoulder pieces. Upon the breastplate were twelve precious stones set in gold, and arranged in four rows. **The names of the twelve tribes of Israel were engraved on the stones.** There were two stones, called the Urim and the Thummim, which were placed inside the pocket of the breastplate.

3. The Robe—The robe of the ephod was worn directly under the ephod and was longer, reaching a little below the knee.

4. The Tunic—The tunic (coat), made of fine linen, covered the entire body.

5. The Turban—An ordinary priest's cap with a turban of dark blue over it.

6. The Girding Sash—The girding sash, or belt, was used to bind the ephod firmly to the waist, below the breastplate.

7. Additional Attire—Linen trousers, short pants that reached to the knees.

B. The Ordinary Priests—The ordinary priests wore high hats, tunics, girding sashes, and trousers. They did not wear the ephod, breastplate, or shoulder pieces like the High Priest.

II. The Ministry of the Priests (Exodus 29:1-46; Leviticus 1-5)

A. The Offerings—Some offerings had to be made because of the sins of the people. God is righteous, and He cannot stand sin. So the only way God and man could have a good relationship was if the sin was taken care of by offerings, animals whose blood was shed in place of man. There were five kinds of major offering for various purposes: burnt offering, meal offering, peace offering, sin offering and trespass offering.

B. Duties

1. Every day the priests were to offer two year-old lambs on the altar of burnt offering—one in the morning and one at twilight—as a continual burnt offering.
2. Every morning the priests were to add wood to the fire on the altar of burnt offering. This fire was to be kept burning continually by the priests and should never be allowed to go out.
3. The High Priest was to burn fragrant incense on the incense altar in the Holy Place every morning and every evening, for a perpetual incense before Jehovah (Exodus 30:7-8).
4. The High Priest was to dress the lamps of the lampstand in the Holy Place every morning, light them every evening, and order them from evening to morning. (Dressing the lamps means to cut off the burned portion of the wick. Ordering the lamps means to fill them with oil.) He was to burn the incense when he dressed the lamps in the morning and when he lit the lamps every evening (Exodus 30:7-8).
5. Every Sabbath, twelve loaves of bread were to be baked and placed on the table of the bread of the presence in two rows of six. Only Aaron and his sons were allowed to eat them.

As you can see, in the Old Testament, coming to God was not that easy! But because the Lord Jesus died for our sins, we can easily come to the Lord today.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS:

In the Old Testament, the priests served God and man. Today, we can also serve God by serving those around us.

- **We can pray throughout the day.** In the Bible, incense is a symbol of prayer. Just like the High Priest burned incense every morning and every evening, we can pray every morning and every night. There are examples of young people in the Bible, like David and Daniel, praying regularly. We can pray for our day when we get up in the morning, thank the Lord for our food at mealtimes, and pray for a good night's rest at bedtime.
- **We can pray for other people.** In addition to praying for ourselves, we can pray for others. The High Priest bore the names of the tribes of the children of Israel on his shoulders and on his breast (heart). Likewise, we can pray for those around us. Ask the children who they can pray for. Examples are parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, brothers and sisters, and friends.
- **The priests had many duties.** The priests served in many ways in the tabernacle. Today, we can help in many ways. Ask the children how they can help. Examples:
 - **At home:** We can help our parents at home by cleaning our room, by setting the table, and by bringing dirty dishes to the sink when the meal is done. We can help bring drinks and snacks to guests when they come over our house. We can help set up our home for hospitality.
 - **In the meeting hall:** We can pick up garbage left on the floor, refill toilet paper or the soap dispenser when we see that it has run out, and help arrange the chairs for children's meeting. We should not run around the meeting hall, draw on walls, chew gum, or play roughly. By taking care of the meeting hall, we are taking care of the building God has provided for His people.
 - **At school:** We can help our teachers clean up our classroom, help our friends when they are hurt or sad, and help younger children when we see they need help opening their milk or they are lost.
- **We should care for God's people.** Today, God's house is not a physical building. Together, we are God's people and God's home. When we care for His people, we are caring for His home. We should not treat one another in a loose way, such as disrupting the children's meeting singing time and distracting other children, walking in late in a noisy way instead of quietly, making fun of others, or forming groups that exclude other children. We should have a special care for one another—for the people of God—just as priests had to take their responsibilities in God's house seriously.

Adapted from the Church in New York City's Children's meeting lessons: 10/2/88; 10/9/88; 12/17/95; 12/28/03