



# Firm Foundations

## Creation to Christ

**Children's Edition**

A helpful guide to teaching God's Word  
with clarity, authority and care.



**FIRM**  
FOUNDATIONS

# Firm Foundations Creation to Christ

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Children's Edition

Book 4

Lessons 26-38

The Tabernacle - Jesus' Birth and Ministry

A helpful guide to teaching God's word  
with clarity, authority and care.

An adaptation by Nancy Everson  
of the original  
*Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ*,  
Trevor McIlwain with Nancy Everson



New Tribes Mission, Sanford, FL 32771-1487

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*with Review Sheets, Skits and Visuals*

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**IMPORTANT  
NOTE TO TEACHERS:**

To effectively use these children's lessons,  
READ AND STUDY BOOK 1  
before you begin  
studying and teaching  
the lessons themselves.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:**

Please see note on page 72 of Book 1.  
If you have time, also read and study  
Book 1.

**PASTORS AND  
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:**

Please see note on page 72 of Book 1.  
Even though you may not be the one teaching  
this material, please read Book 1, which  
explains the teaching rationale  
used in the lessons.



## The Tabernacle

### OVERVIEW

This lesson presents the basic plan of the tabernacle. Included are only those things which will point the student to understanding the Gospel when it is presented in later lessons.

Mercy is defined in this lesson as God's provision for sinners to escape the punishment they deserve for their sins. Emphasis is given to the fact that man can only come to God according to God's will and plan.

### LESSON PREPARATION

This section is for you, the teacher.

The passages in the Scripture Reference column are for your own study in preparing for this lesson. Since they may contain concepts that run ahead of the lesson, they are not to be taught at this point.

**Note: If you have not taught previously from this series of lessons, please read carefully the note to teachers in the front of this book.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 24:12-18; 25:1-11,17-22; 26:31-33; 27:1,2; 28:1; 39:42,43; 40:17,34,35; Leviticus 1:1-5; 16:2,3

### LESSON GOALS:

- To explain the purpose and basic structure of the tabernacle. <sup>1</sup>
- To present the pattern of the tabernacle in such a way that, in a later lesson, it will be seen to clearly picture Christ.
- To show that God made a way for sinners to come to Him for mercy.

### THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENTS:

- To see that God has made a way for sinners to come to Him.
- To see the importance of the types and patterns prescribed by God; to see that man's own way is unacceptable.

### PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER:

The tabernacle is a beautiful picture of our merciful God dwelling in the midst of His sinful people, making a way for them to come to Him to find the mercy and grace they needed. Like the body of our Lord, the outside of the tent, which was only skins, was not distinguished in appearance. But inside dwelled the glory of God!

We have the privilege of bringing our students an even greater message, for Jesus Himself came and dwelled among us, offering **Himself** for our sins, making the way open for **all** to come to God. In Christ, we are given not a system of sacrifices offered by one priest after another, but **one sacrifice for sins forever**, offered once for all by our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, the righteous one.

The tabernacle stood in full view of all. Mercy was available to all who would come by faith. Jesus Christ died for all. Through Him we can "*come boldly unto the throne of grace*" and "*obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*" (Hebrews 4:16).

But the greatest wonder is that now our God dwells **in those who believe**. What greater message of mercy and grace could be offered?

As we teach the story of God's tabernacle, God's Spirit will be preparing hearts to receive the ultimate message of the finished work of Jesus Christ.

### VISUALS:

For this lesson, it would be helpful to have a simple model of the tabernacle. You may be able to purchase through a Christian bookstore a paper model which you can construct. You need to make only the pieces of the tabernacle about which



<sup>1</sup> The tabernacle is an extremely interesting and meaningful subject, especially for the believer. Many books are available for deeper study. Since the purpose of these lessons is to lead the unsaved to know Christ, it is best to keep this lesson on the tabernacle as simple as possible, covering only those things necessary for presenting the Gospel. The laver, the table of shewbread, the candlestick, and the altar of incense all relate to the believer and are covered in "*Building on Firm Foundations*," Volume 4 by Trevor McIlwain, pp. 187-195, New Tribes Mission, Sanford, FL. If you have students who want further study, this could be done at another time. □

you are going to teach in this lesson. They are the outer fence, the brazen altar, the holy place, the holy of holies, the veil, the ark and the mercy seat. If you do not have a three-dimensional model, use a picture and a diagram of the layout of the tabernacle. Point out the location of the pieces of furniture within the tabernacle as you mention them. If possible, use both a model and a diagram or picture.

- Chronological Picture No. 34, "The Tabernacle"
- Chronological Picture No. 35, "The Components of the Tabernacle"
- Chronological Picture No. 36, "The Sin Offering"
- Chronological Chart
- Poster, "Mercy"
- Poster 1, "Learning About God" — Use this to emphasize themes.
- Poster 10, "Some of God's Promises to Abraham"

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## SPECIAL PREPARATION:

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- Make copies for your class of the **Lesson 26 Review Sheet** and **Skit 26** (at the end of this lesson). Provide pencils for the children.
  - Prepare for any activity you select from the **Suggestions for Activities** (at the end of this lesson). As you select activities, remember to allow sufficient time to teach the outlined lesson material.
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## ON TEACHING THIS LESSON:

You are carefully laying a scriptural foundation on which the Gospel will later be presented. Each lesson builds on previous lessons, so be sure to cover each point carefully.

### DON'T COMPLICATE THE MESSAGE!

As you teach, keep in mind that this is a directed study — not an exhaustive survey of the Bible. Keep your lesson on track and moving ahead by limiting and directing any discussion.

**Carefully follow the outline. Emphasize the doctrinal themes.**

LESSON FORMAT: The **center column** below contains the lesson material to be taught to the students. The **bold outline headings** are only for reference and need not be spoken, as they are incorporated into the outlined material that follows. The material in the **side columns** is for the teacher's own reference and is not intended to be included in the lesson.

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## TO BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS (Center Column Only)

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## LESSON OUTLINE:

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REVIEW Lesson 25, using Lesson 26 Review Sheet.

PERFORM Skit 26. Note: "Uncle Don's" part should be read by an adult.

### A. Introduction

What is mercy?

SHOW POSTER, "MERCY," AND HAVE THE CHILDREN READ IT.

Who needs it? Everyone!

Could the Israelites keep their promises to God?

Can you keep your promises?

Today's lesson is about God's holiness and His mercy.

## B. Moses was once again called by God up into the mountain.



**Theme: God communicates with man.**

God spoke to the Israelites from Mount Sinai and told them His Ten Commandments.

The Lord did not want the Israelites to forget His commandments, so He told Moses to come up into the mountain once again.

- The Lord Himself planned to write His commandments on two pieces of stone so Moses could teach them to the Israelites.
- They had heard His Law, but God intended to give them a permanent, written record of His perfect Law.



READ Exodus 24:12.

## C. Joshua went with Moses up into the mountain.

Moses obeyed the Lord and went up into the mountain.



READ Exodus 24:13-18.

A young man named Joshua accompanied Moses.

Joshua was Moses' assistant.

POINT TO JOSHUA ON THE CHRONOLOGICAL CHART.

## D. God commanded Moses to build the tabernacle.



**Theme: God communicates with man.**

While Moses was on the mountain, the Lord gave him the Ten Commandments written on two tablets of stone.

The Lord also explained to Moses other rules and customs that He commanded the Israelites to follow.

- God was their king.
- He told them everything that He wanted them to do.

The Lord also wanted Moses and the people to do something very important.

- Explain.

*The Lord had given Israel His Ten Commandments. He had agreed with Israel that, if they obeyed His laws, He would be with them, protect them, and give them all that they needed. But, if they disobeyed His laws, then the punishment was death.*

*The Lord knew that the Israelites were sinners and would not be able to always obey His commands. God knew that they would disobey Him and that, unless they had some way of escape, He would have to punish all of them.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>2</sup> The story of the golden calf (Exodus 32) is not covered in these lessons. But you may want to mention to your students that the Bible records that, even while God was giving to Moses the instructions for the Tabernacle, the people of Israel were already breaking His commands. □





**Theme: God is loving, merciful and gracious.**

*However, because the Lord loved them, He did not want to destroy them. Therefore, He told them to build a special place where He would live with them.*

*The people would learn how to approach their holy God without being destroyed.*



READ Exodus 25:1-8.

— Note:

*This didn't mean that God would no longer be everywhere. Even when He came to live in the tabernacle, God would continue to be everywhere.*

SHOW POSTER, "SOME OF GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM." POINT TO AND READ THE PROMISE FROM GENESIS 15:14.

Do you remember that the Egyptians gave many things to the Israelites the night they left Egypt?

Now some of those treasures would be used to build the tabernacle!

### **E. The tabernacle had to be built exactly as God commanded Moses.**



**Theme: Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.**



READ Exodus 25:9.

The Hebrew word used for tabernacle means tent, dwelling place or home.

Everything in this place had to be built exactly as the Lord told Moses when he was up in the mountain.

- It all had to be done God's way.
- Remember that Cain refused to come to God in the way God had said, and so God would not accept him.
- But Noah believed God and built the ark exactly as the Lord told him. God accepted and saved Noah and his family.
- We must come to God in the way He teaches us through the Bible.

Because the Israelites were walking back to the land from which their forefathers had come, the tabernacle had to be lightweight and portable.

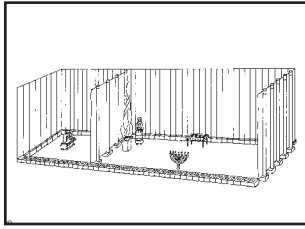
- Therefore, the Lord told them to build most of the tabernacle with materials made from animal skins and goat hair.
- Their tents were also made of these materials.

### **F. The holy of holies**



**Theme: God is holy and righteous. He demands death as the payment for sin.**

*Suggested Visual:*



CHRONOLOGICAL PICTURE NO. 35,  
"THE COMPONENTS OF THE  
TABERNACLE"

God told Moses that the tabernacle must have two rooms. <sup>3</sup>

- The first room, which was entered from the outside, was called the **holy place**, or the separate place.

God is holy, perfect, righteous — set apart from sinners.

It was a room set apart by God to be used only for Him.

It was only to be used by God's chosen priests when they were serving God.

We will study more about the priests in a little while.

- The second room, the inner room, was even more important. This was called the **most holy place**, or the holy of holies, that is, the most separate room in God's house.

This room was set apart just for God except for once a year when the high priest, whom we will study about shortly, was allowed to enter.

God's presence would be in this inside room.

This was the special room in the tabernacle where God promised to live in the center of the Israelites' camp.

<sup>3</sup> If possible, use both Chronological Picture 35 and a model to show the students the layout of the holy place and the holy of holies, and each special part, as you teach. □

## G. The ark and the mercy seat



READ Exodus 25:10,11.

The Lord also directed Moses to make a box which was to be placed inside the second room, the most holy place where God was to live.

- The Lord told Moses that this box, called the **ark of the covenant**, must be made from the wood of a particular tree which was chosen by God.
- After they made the ark of the covenant, they were to cover it with gold.



READ Exodus 25:17.

Moses was told to make a lid of pure gold and place it on top of the ark in the inner room.

- The lid was called the **mercy seat**.
- The mercy seat was the most important part of the tabernacle.

This was the place where God promised to live with the sinful Israelites and show them mercy.

**Mercy** is God's provision for sinners to escape the punishment they deserve for their sins.