

Station 3: Camp of Israel

Our Purpose

Help each visitor feel the Spirit and understand that God loves them. God wants us to prepare ourselves to be close to Him.

Your Role

Share the story below in your own words in 2–3 minutes.

Let the Spirit guide you. Have fun and show excitement!

Main Message

Welcome to the Camp of Israel!

When the Israelites left Egypt, God told them to build a special place called the Tabernacle. This was a holy place where God could be with His people.

God gave the Israelites exact instructions on how to build it.

The Tabernacle area was about 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. The Israelites used their best materials to build it. Some materials came from Egypt, and others were found in the wilderness.

A fence about 7 feet tall surrounded the Tabernacle area. It was made of 10 large curtains. The fence separated this holy place from the outside world.

Inside were three special areas:

1. The Courtyard: The first area inside the fence.
2. The Holy Place: An even more sacred area.
3. The Holy of Holies: The most sacred place. It represented God's presence.

The Tabernacle was placed in the center of the camp. The 12 tribes of Israel set up their tents all around it.

The doors of their tents faced the Tabernacle. This helped remind the Israelites to keep their focus on God.

Ask the Visitors

Why do you think God wanted the Tabernacle in the center of the camp?

Possible Answer

Just like the Tabernacle was in the center of the camp, God should be at the center of our lives.

We can turn to Him for help, guidance, and protection every day.

One More Important Detail

God showed the Israelites that He was with them in a special way.

- During the day: A cloud stayed above the Tabernacle.
- During the night: A tall pillar of fire appeared above it.

These were signs that God was with His people.

Remember: Just as God watched over the Israelites, He loves us and wants to guide us today!

The prophet Isaiah taught that the cloud and fire helped protect God's people. The cloud gave them shade from the hot sun and kept them safe from storms (Isaiah 4:5–6). This is a beautiful reminder of how Jesus Christ protects and helps us.

When the cloud moved, the Israelites packed up their tents and followed it to a new place. This was how the Lord guided His people as they traveled through the wilderness. The tribe of Levi was in charge of caring for, serving in, and moving the Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle was a temple that could be taken apart and moved from place to place. Many years later, King Solomon built a larger temple. The Ark of the Covenant was placed in the most sacred room, called the Holy of Holies, around 957 BC. This was about 400 years after the Israelites left Egypt.

Short Outline for Teaching

- Leaving Egypt: The Israelites escaped from Egypt with God's help.
- Building the Tabernacle: God told the Israelites to build the Tabernacle so He could be close to His people.
- Size: The Tabernacle courtyard was 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. It was made with the best materials.
- Fence: A fence about 7 feet tall, made with 10 curtains, surrounded the Tabernacle. It separated God's holy place from the outside world.
- Three Main Areas: The Tabernacle had a Courtyard, a Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies (the most sacred room).
- Center of Camp: The Tabernacle was placed in the middle of the Israelites' camp. The openings of their tents faced the Tabernacle.
- God's Presence: During the day, God showed He was with His people through a cloud. At night, He used a pillar of fire. These reminded the people that God was watching over and protecting them.
- Following God: When the cloud moved, the Israelites packed up their tents and followed it. They trusted God to lead them to the next place.

Main Lesson

Just as God guided and protected the Israelites with a cloud and fire, Jesus Christ can guide and protect us today. When we follow Him, He helps us know where to go and what to do.