

Station 8 – Holy Place

Our Purpose:

Help each visitor feel the Spirit and know that God loves them. Help them understand that God wants them to prepare to be with Him.

Your Role:

Tell the story below in your own words in 2–3 minutes. Let the Spirit guide you. Have fun and show excitement!

Core Message:

Welcome to the Holy Place!

Priests and Levites served in the Tabernacle, but only priests could enter this first room. Inside the Holy Place, there were three special, sacred objects.

On the right is the Table of Shewbread. On the table, you can see a pitcher of wine and 12 loaves of bread made without yeast. Each loaf stood for one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

At the end of each week, the priests ate the bread on the Sabbath (a holy day of rest). To the Israelites, this bread was a symbol of sharing a special meal with God.

Ask: What did Jesus say bread stands for?

Possible Answer:

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35).

Jesus also took bread and said, "Take, eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26).

The bread reminds us of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us.

The Candlestick

On the left is the candlestick, which has seven branches.

In Jewish tradition, the seven branches remind us of God's presence in the burning bush and in the Tabernacle.

The candlestick was shaped like an almond tree. Almond trees are some of the first trees to bloom in the spring.

God told the Israelites to use olive oil to keep the lamps burning all the time (Leviticus 24:2).

Ask: What can the light from the candlestick teach us?

Possible Answer:

Jesus Christ is the "Light of the World" (John 8:12).

Just as the lamps gave light in the Holy Place, Jesus gives us light and helps guide us through life. When we follow Him, we can feel closer to God.

In 3 Nephi 18:24, Jesus teaches us:

"Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do."

Possible Answer: Olive oil was used to give light and help heal people. It reminds us of Jesus Christ and His Atonement. It also represents being clean and pure and the Holy Ghost.

The Altar of Incense

In the center of the Holy Place is the Altar of Incense. The priests burned incense (something that makes sweet-smelling smoke) two times each day.

Question: What does the burning incense represent?

Possible Answer: The smoke rising toward heaven represents our prayers going up to God. It reminds us that God hears our prayers.

Psalms 141:2 says:

"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

The Veil of the Temple

Behind the Altar of Incense is a curtain called the veil. It separates the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, the most sacred room in the temple.

Look at the special colors of the veil: blue, red, and purple.

Notice the two cherubim (angels) on the veil. They represent angels guarding the entrance to the Holy of Holies.

The Apostle Paul taught that the veil represents Jesus Christ. Jesus makes it possible for us to return to God's presence.

Hebrews 10:20

Answers to Common Questions

- Everything in the Holy Place was covered with gold.
- The burning incense helped cover the smell of animals and sacrifices. The Israelites believed the sweet smell pleased God.
- This is where Zacharias was serving as a priest when the angel Gabriel appeared to him. Gabriel stood on the right side of the Altar of Incense. He told Zacharias that he and his wife would have a baby boy named John. This baby would grow up to become John the Baptist.

Read Luke 1:5–24 and tell the story of Zacharias and the angel Gabriel in your own words.