

Ponder & Practical: Lessons along the Journey

*Exodus 14:31 when the people saw the mighty hand of the Lord
... they put their trust in Him*

The Exodus journey was (among other things) a *whole people learning exercise*, with the Israelite people learning to trust and be the people of God that He was calling them to be.

Take a sheet that charts some of the lessons for the whole people on the Exodus journey. Think through things you have learnt in your walk with Jesus. Use this to think through how you might help a newcomer to Jesus to learn as they journey in their newly found faith.

Advertisement: on Tuesdays 14th & 28th November at 8pm we are introducing a new one-to-one discipleship resource, aimed specifically at working with people who are new to the Christian faith. You are welcome to come and explore this resource with us.

Lessons along the Journey

Here are just some of the learning episodes in Exodus:

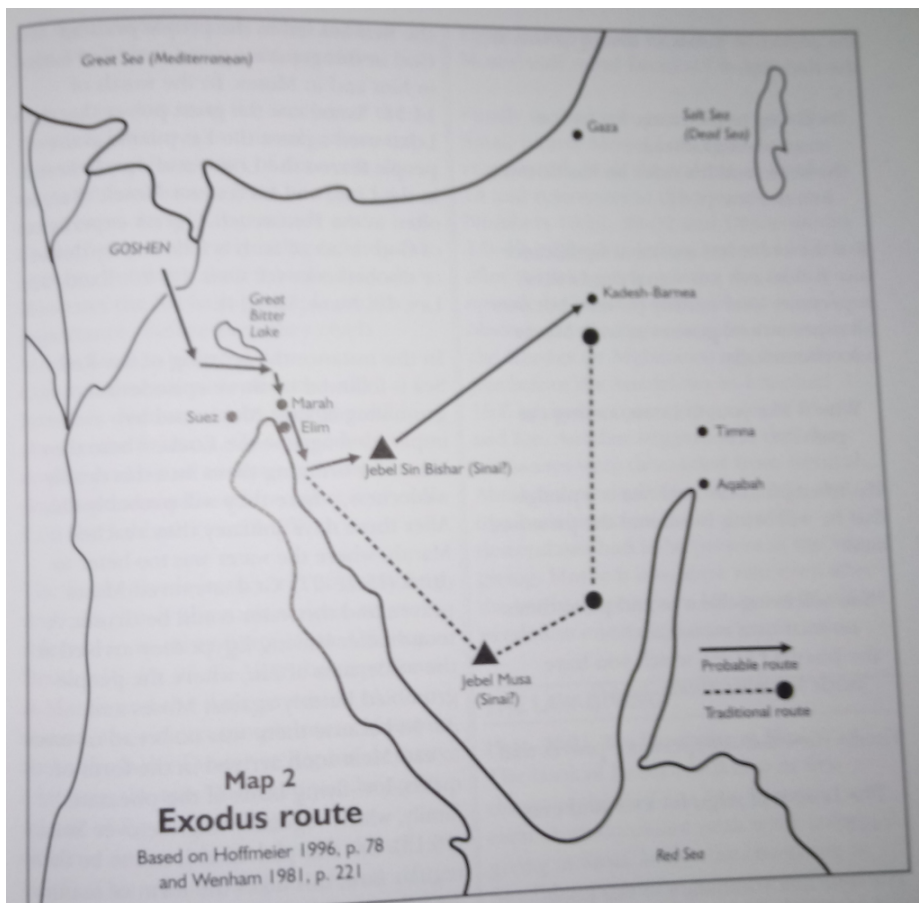
- Ch 12 Passover God provides for our salvation
- Ch 14 Escape God fights for us
- Ch 16 Provision God provides for our needs
- Ch 20 Boundaries God shows a way to live differently
- Ch 40 Glory God leads by His presence

Note these are learnt through events and life along the journey (no mention of a classroom!).

→ **Think about your own time spent following Jesus – what have you learnt *along the way*?**

If you were to help a newcomer to the Christian faith, what would you hope they would learn along the way? How might you walk with them and help them do this?

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Deepening Knowledge: The first 5 books of the Bible

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures ...

The first 5 books form a set known as The Pentateuch, and form the heart of the Jewish scriptures. Many of us will know stories from Genesis and Exodus, but not necessarily how the whole set of 5 books fits together.

Take a sheet which gives an outline to the 5 books for your own study and reference.

The Pentateuch

- Pentateuch literally means '5 books' in Greek
- Forms the *centre* of Jewish scriptures, referred to as the 'Torah' (= 'Law', but with wider meaning of 'teachings')
- The 5 books have very different timespans!
 - Genesis covers creation / early mankind (1000s years)
 - Exodus / Leviticus / Numbers (to ch14) covers approx just 1 year of the Israelites coming out of Egypt
 - Numbers ch14 onwards covers 40 years desert wander
 - Deuteronomy covers the last day(s) of Moses life
- It is mostly written as narrative, but includes national history, laws, and two census listings
- Another way to view the overall structure:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Genesis | Creation & Covenant Beginnings |
| Exodus | The formation of the Israelite people, with the details of the law (Leviticus) at the centre |
| Leviticus | |
| Numbers | |
| Deuteronomy | Moses farewell speech |

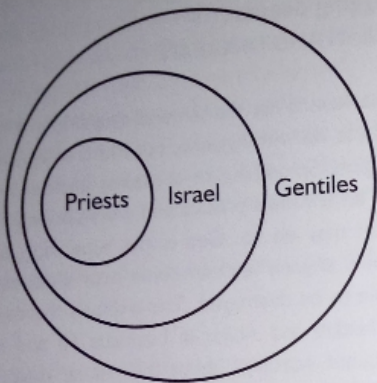
- It is generally agreed that the 5 books were the first to be fully recognised 'as scripture' – certainly by the 5th century BC (see Ezra 3:2 and Nehemiah 8 – 9)
- Note that while the simple explanation is that Moses was the author for all of it, scholars who pick through detail would suggest other theories

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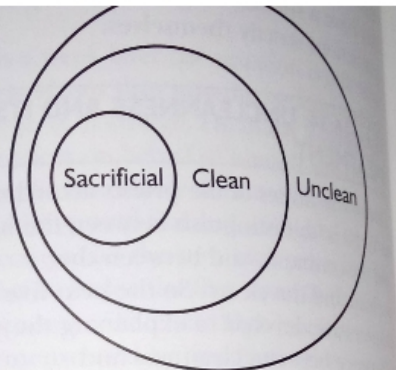
Clean and Unclean

Cleanness (as spelt out in great detail in Leviticus) is not the same as cleanliness. It is about being holy and ready to come into the close presence of God.

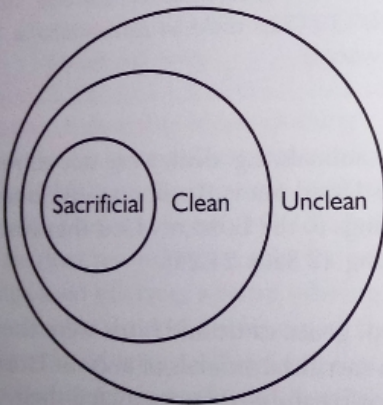
Humans



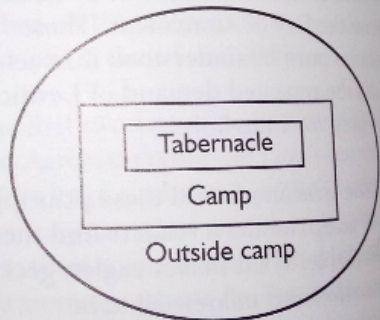
Animals



Birds



Spaces



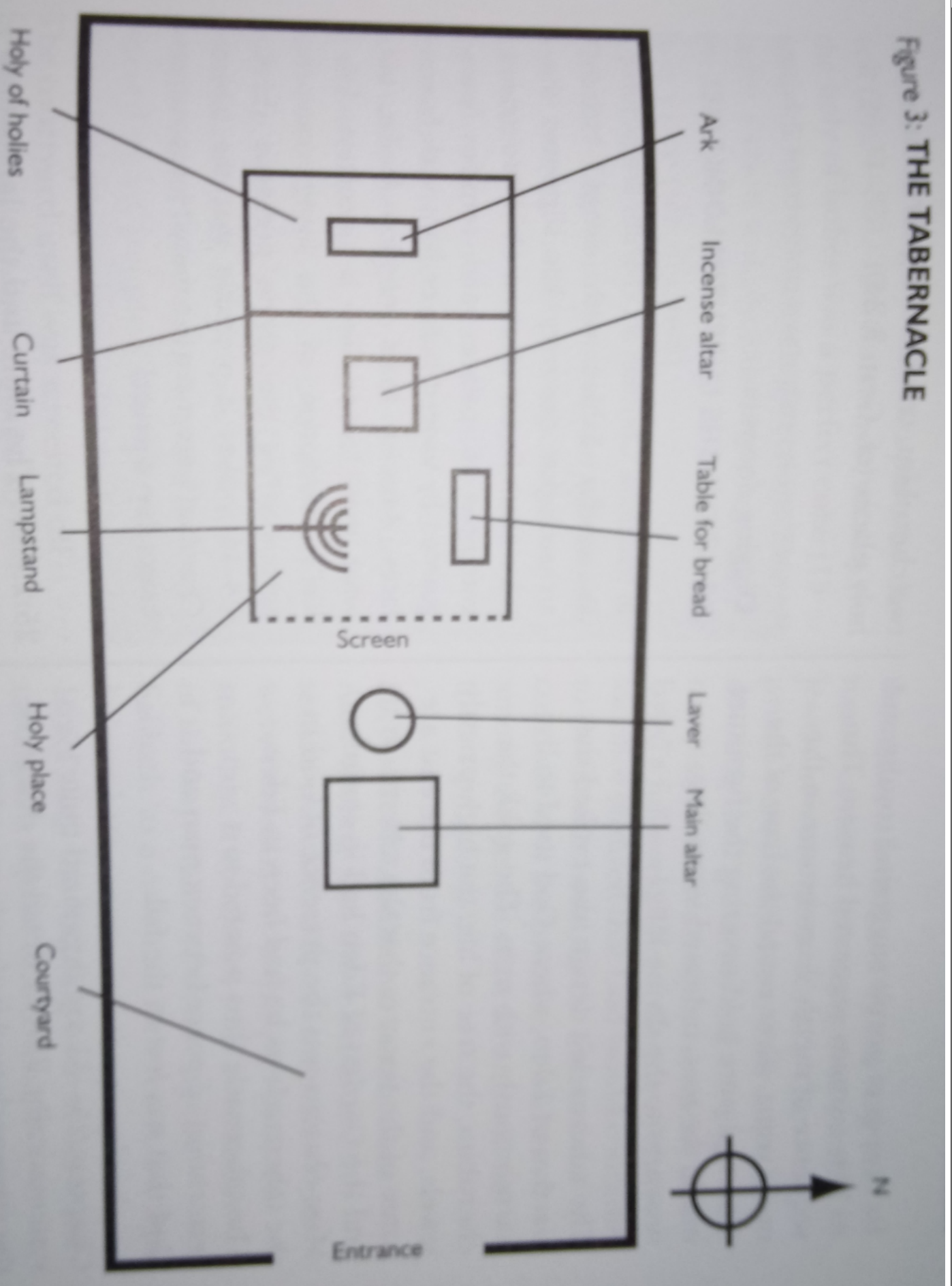
Fun Learning: The Tabernacle

Exodus 40:33 Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work.

The Tabernacle – the epicentre for the presence of God – was set out with much detail in terms of layout, contents, and regulations for the priests to enter and perform the religious functions.

Take a look at the sheet detailing the layout and some of the artefacts. You might like to have a go building your own floorplan model of the tabernacle design using Duplo!

Figure 3: THE TABERNACLE



Prayer Station

A variety of prayer stations are set out in the week of prayer for you to come and use. They use a number of styles, and can work across all ages ... so good to bring your children to use as well!

Wednesday 8th 9 to 5pm Special set of prayer stations to pray for the work of GenR8 – schools work across much of Cambridgeshire

Thursday 9th from 2pm until 5pm Saturday:

Prayer stations for our week of prayer, to help us pray for the life and work of the church