

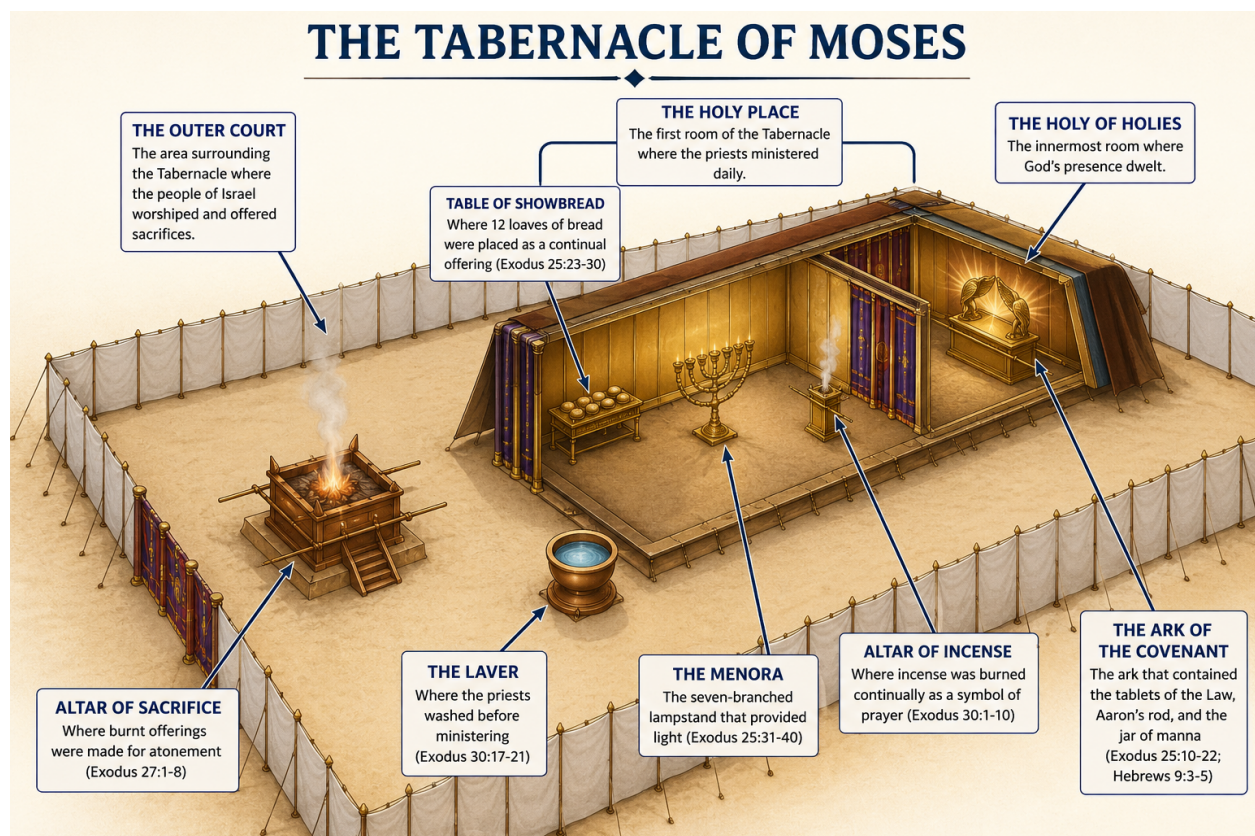
Abiding in The Vine - Week 2 Practice Guide.

Sermon Summary

Read John 15:1–8

Jesus said, "Abide in Me, and I in you", this is the bible's "Great Invitation", a life of oneness with our God. It is an invitation to join our lives to His in continual union, intimacy, and abundance of life. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit apart from the vine, we cannot experience spiritual life or fruitfulness apart from abiding in Christ.

From the beginning, God's desire has been a relationship with His people. The Old Testament tabernacle pointed toward this reality. Through sacrifices, cleansing, worship, prayer, and finally the Holy of Holies, God was showing Israel that His greatest desire was not simply forgiven people—it was a people who could live in His presence.



Jesus fulfilled everything the tabernacle foreshadowed. Through His death and resurrection, the veil was torn, the separation between God and humanity was removed, and every believer has been invited to confidently enter God's presence. We are now the temple of the Holy Spirit, and Christ Himself abides within us.

The contents of the Ark of the Covenant beautifully illustrate what Christ has placed inside every believer:

- **The Law** reminds us that God has written His law upon our hearts and has given us the power to walk in obedience.
- **The Jar of Manna** reminds us that Jesus is the true Bread from Heaven who continually nourishes us through His living, spoken word.
- **Aaron's Budding Staff** reminds us that dead wood only became fruitful while resting in God's presence. In the same way, lasting spiritual fruit is produced only through abiding in Christ.

Abiding is not merely learning more information about God. It is learning to enter His presence, listen for His voice, receive His love, and allow His life to flow through us. As we remain connected to Jesus, His life becomes our life, His character becomes our character, and His fruit naturally grows within us.

Our calling is not simply to visit God's presence occasionally, but to live there every day.

Personal Reflection

1. Jesus said, "Apart from Me you can do nothing." In what areas of life have you been trying to produce fruit through your own strength rather than remaining connected to Christ?
2. Hebrews says we can now "enter the Most Holy Place with confidence." Do you truly believe God welcomes you into His presence, or does guilt, shame, or fear still keep you at a distance?
3. Which picture from the Ark speaks most to your current season?
 - God's law written on your heart
 - Jesus as your daily bread
 - Aaron's staff producing fruit in God's presence
4. When was the last time you intentionally became still enough to listen for the Lord's voice rather than simply speaking to Him?
5. What practical habit could help you cultivate a lifestyle of abiding this week?

Small Group Discussion

Read together: John 15:1–8

Discuss:

1. What does "abiding" practically look like?

How is abiding different from simply attending church, reading the Bible, or praying out of habit?

2. Which part of the tabernacle imagery helped you better understand God's desire for relationship? Why?

3. Discuss the three items inside the Ark.

- How does each one point to Jesus?
- How do you see these realities becoming active in your own life?

4. Aaron's staff was completely dead until it rested in God's presence.

Where have you experienced God producing life, healing, or fruit that you know you could not have produced on your own?

5. Jesus promised that those who abide in Him "bear much fruit."

What fruit do you most desire God to produce in your life during this season?

This Week's Challenge

Each day, spend ten uninterrupted minutes entering your "Most Holy Place."

- Begin by thanking Jesus for His finished work.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that may hinder your ability to listen and receive from God.
- Repent and Receive His forgiveness. (if needed) If not, thank Him for your victories.
- Quiet your heart and simply listen.
- Ask, "Lord, what do You want to speak to me today?"
- Write down what you sense Him saying and pray it throughout your day.

Something to Meditate on:

"Fruit is not produced by striving—it is produced by abiding."

"Spiritual health is not measured by how much we do for Jesus, but by how deeply we abide in Him. Healthy branches naturally bear fruit because they remain connected to the Vine."