

## 1. Camp of Israel

**Our Purpose:** Help each visitor feel the Spirit and learn God loves them. He invites them to prepare to enter His presence.

**Your Role:** Share the story below in your words—in 3-4 minutes.

*Let the Spirit guide you. Have fun—your enthusiasm is contagious.*

### Core Message:

Welcome to the Camp of Israel.

Overview. You may remember that as the Israelites escaped Egypt, the Lord commanded them to build a Tabernacle so He could dwell with them. The Lord provided specific instructions for building the Tabernacle. It was about 150 feet by 75 feet and was constructed of the finest materials which the Israelites carried with them out of Egypt or could be found in the wilderness. The fence was about 7 feet tall made of 10 curtains that separated the sacred space from the world. This holy space was divided into increasingly sacred areas; the courtyard, the Holy place, and then the Holy of holies that symbolizes God's presence.

As this picture shows, the Tabernacle was placed in the center of the camp with the 12 tribes pitching their tents around it. Importantly, the doors of their tents faced the Tabernacle.

**What symbolism do you see in how the Camp of Israel was organized?**

*Possible answer: The Lord should be at the center of our lives. We can look to Him for guidance and protection.*

The Lord's presence was indicated by a cloud that hovered over the Tabernacle by day and a pillar of fire by night. The prophet Isaiah taught that the cloud and fire were for a defense, a shadow from the heat and a refuge and covert from the storm. (Isaiah 4:5-6) What beautiful symbolism of how our Savior helps us.

When the cloud moved, the Israelites packed up the camp and followed it to a new location. In this way, the Lord guided His people as they journeyed through the wilderness. The tribe of Levi was responsible for officiating in and moving the Tabernacle.

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

The Tabernacle served as a portable temple. Later a larger structure was built by Solomon and the Ark of the Covenant was put into the Holy of Holies in 957 BC (400 years after the Exodus).

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