

MIDWEEK

“Knees to the Earth”

Lesson 1: Introduction to Prayer, The Tabernacle, The Outer Court, & The Brazen Altar

ICE BREAKER:

Take a few minutes and get to know the people at your table. Introduce yourself and answer this question: At what time of day or night do you feel that you are at your very best? Why do you think this is the case?

STATEMENT:

“No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.” - Leonard Ravenhill

QUESTION 1:

Have a volunteer at your table read the above quote by Leonard Ravenhill. As we begin this study on prayer, discuss at your table your perspective from a macro and a micro view of the current state of prayer emphasis in our culture today (macro). Then take a few moments talking about how this quote affects you personally (micro). On the matter of prayer, does this quote challenge you? sadden you? motivate you? Why does it bring you to this emotion?

STATEMENT:

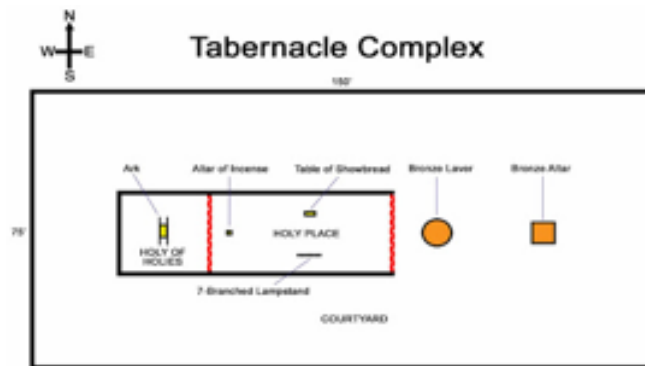
In the video teaching, there were several references to a starting point. One reference stated that any great building requires an even greater foundation. A blueprint is an essential tool in establishing a strong foundation. Another reference in the teaching refers to a starting point as a pilgrimage or a journey. In order to reach a destination where you’ve never traveled, requires a road map that tells you where you are going.

QUESTION 2:

Take a minute and discuss at your table the advantages of having a blueprint for an important building project. Also discuss the necessity for a road map when taking a road trip to a destination for the first time. Share stories, both good and bad, that support the need for a proper starting point.

STATEMENT:

In the teaching, there was an important question that was asked. What is prayer? Prayer is the approach of going from where you dwell to where He dwells. Prayer is going from entrance to encounter. As we take the journey of understanding what a deeper encounter with God through prayer looks like, we see the blueprint below. This is the road map for taking the journey from entrance to encounter.



Psalm 100: 4 NKJV - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

QUESTION 3:

There is an understanding that in order to take the journey from entrance to encounter, one must recognize there is distance between the two. Discuss at your table some things that could cause distance between you and God.

Now take a moment and discuss why Psalm 100 verse 4 is a great place to start your journey in the Outer Court, as you accept God's invitation to enter into his gates in pursuit of an encounter with Him.

QUESTION 4:

The Brazen Altar is the place where the blood sacrifice was offered. This represents the attitude of forgiveness and worship. There were 4 points in the teaching about pleading the blood in prayer that brings cleansing.

- 1. Forgiveness in the sight of God**
- 2. Protection from the judgment of God**
- 3. The cleansing of our conscience**
- 4. Power to overcome the enemy**

What are some practical things that we can do in our prayer life that would initiate this attitude of forgiveness, cleansing, and worship?

QUESTION 5: CLOSING CHALLENGE

Take this next week and prepare your heart for the expectation of the journey of a lifetime, a true and authentic encounter with God. You have been given a blue print of what this looks like. You have also been given a road map for the journey ahead. Whether it is a building project, or a road trip, the next step is to start, by entering the door to God's invitation to join him. This week's teaching has given you steps to begin this amazing journey. What steps will you take this week to begin this exciting journey of encountering God like never before. Refer back to the ice breaker question to develop your best time of the day to give God your very best! LET'S DO THIS!