



## ***Hebrews 9:1-14 – The way to God***

1. The layout of the tabernacle is given to us in quite a lot of detail here (v1-5). You can see even more detail in Exodus 25! How does this make you feel about the first covenant and what do you think it teaches us about God?
2. Access into the rooms in the tabernacle is clearly shown as being very limited (v6-8). What does this teach us about who can come into God's presence?
3. What do verses 8-9 show us is the problem with the tabernacle system of sacrifices and offerings? What don't they do, and why can't they solve the problem of sin?
4. V11-14 shows us the new way to God through Jesus.
  - a. In what ways are we shown here that Jesus is a better way to God?

- b. Does this passage change the way you think about the access we have to God through Christ as Christians?
  - c. Spend some time reflecting and giving thanks for the good news that through faith in Jesus we are completely forgiven – inside and out, with a clear conscience (you might refer back to Hebrews 8:12).
  - d. How does Ephesians 2:19-22 show us the difference Jesus makes to how we think about our access to God?
  - e. According to v14, how are we to live as a result of what Jesus has done for us?
- 

### **Thoughts for Junior Church**

Perhaps start with a question asking the children to think about how they would feel if they couldn't talk to / spend time with their parent or carer, or sibling, or best friend. What might that feel like? How tough would that be?

Our passage today shows us that because of our problem with sin we can't become close to God/be friends with God which is even worse!

Maybe you could play a game that's designed to frustrate like a paper maze where you have to trace a route to the centre but get frustrated because most routes lead to a dead end and how that's a picture of all the ways we might try to be friends to God on our own.

The first 5 verses are all about the layout of the tabernacle. You might want to spend a bit of time explaining what the tabernacle

was for and what it looked like. This link might be helpful - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/what-does-the-tabernacle-symbolize/>

V1-8 shows us just how holy and not like us God is.....and that people like us can't just walk into his presence....can't be friends with God (even the High Priest could only go into God's presence briefly once a year!).

V9 shows us the problem that without Jesus the wrong things we do, and say, and think, can't be properly dealt with, and that's why we can't be friends with God.

But the good news is that Jesus solves the problem of our sin for us so that we can be friends with God. When we say sorry to God we know he forgives us and forgets whatever we've done wrong (Hebrews 8:12).

Explore how he does that in v11-14.

Note: you'll need to deal sensitively in explaining the need for blood – God takes our sin so seriously that the only right punishment is death. Isn't it the most amazing news that Jesus came to die in our place 'once for all' so we don't need to do sacrifices any more?!

Talk about the call to 'serve the living God' at the end of v14. We do that not to try and be friends with God....but because we want to because of what Jesus has done for us.