

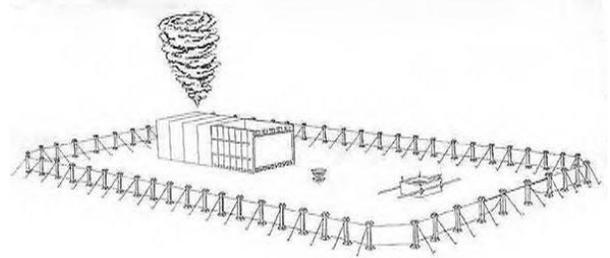


# Worship at Christ Center: Closer Encounters

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## Lessons from the Tabernacle about Closer Personal Encounters with God.

- **Accessibility:** It was portable, and was moved and placed in the midst of the people for easy access.
- **Drawing Near:** The Tabernacle was laid out as a journey closer to the presence and glory of God.
- **Sacred Space:** It was holy ground for encountering God's manifest presence – the cloud and fire.
- **Features:** It was designed as teaching tools to reflect a step-by-step journey closer to God:



1. **THE OUTER COURT:** A place to gather, prepare and anticipate our journey closer to God.
  - **Brazen Altar:** We approach only because sin has been atoned for by Christ's death.
  - **Laver:** As we draw near, we cleanse ourselves from the world's defilement by repentance.
  - **Door:** Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We enter boldly through Jesus, our Lord.
2. **The HOLY PLACE:** We step away from the world into a holy place of fellowship with God.
  - **Table of "Presence Bread:"** This is the bread of God's Word, provided for everyone.
  - **Golden Lamp-stand:** Jesus is our light. His Spirit illuminates the Word of God.
  - **Altar of Incense:** Continuously burning, speaks of prayer as a sweet fragrance to God.
  - **The Veil:** A separator reminding us of God's holiness. The veil is now done away in Christ!
3. **THE HOLY OF HOLIES:** A place for the *shekinah* [Lit. "to dwell"], i.e., the glory of God's presence.
  - **Ark of the Covenant:** A reminder of God's Covenant; for us, it's the "New Covenant!"
  - **Mercy Seat:** God's gracious terms for accepting us by means of the shed blood of Christ.

**Join the Journey:** At Christ Center, we design our worship services to allow us to enjoy together a journey into a closer, fuller encounter with our glorious God. Here is the plan:

