



The Temple Curtain is Torn! An Easter Activity

Before Christ became our mediator giving us access to God the Father and giving us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, God gave His people a temple. The temple was a shadow of the things to come and filled with ceremonial laws that pointed everyone to the coming Messiah who would be the spotless lamb to take away the sins of the world.

There were several areas of the temple to conduct acts of worship to the Lord and acts of sacrifice to atone for the sins of the people.

In the innermost part of the temple was the holiest, the most sacred and special place of all. It was so special that only one man, the high priest, could go in once a year to offer a sacrifice so that the sins of God's people would be atoned for (Exodus 30:10). This is the place where the presence of God would appear (Leviticus 16:2). And because it was so holy, God had his people construct a magnificent curtain or veil to separate the holy of holies from the rest of the temple. The curtain was tall and long and really thick. Historians say that the curtain in Herod's Temple (the one during Jesus' lifetime) had a curtain that was 60 feet high and 4 inches thick.

The curtain was also a symbol of the barrier between God and sinful man. People, because of their sinful nature, were separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). They needed someone to

represent them - a high priest - who would have to continually make sacrifices to pardon the sin of the people.

All of this changed when Jesus took on flesh and came to take away our sins by dying on a cross. All our sin was put on him so that in turn we would be holy.

And when Jesus died, something spectacular happened.

Matthew 27:50-51 says:

"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

An impossible thing happened: the huge, thick curtain that separated people from God was torn in two. God tore the curtain because Jesus became a forever high priest who represents us before God. He also became our lasting sacrifice that takes away our sins forever so we can be near God (Hebrews 10:19-20).

Jesus took away what separated us from God: our sin.

And to share this message with the world God ripped the temple curtain in half. Through Christ we have access to God the Father now and forever.

Further Study and Discussion

1. Read 2 Chronicles 3:14. Describe the temple curtain in Solomon's temple (the first temple).
2. Get a measuring tape and measure 4 inches and discuss why the curtain was so thick. Measure and mark out 60 feet on the ground to see how tall the curtain was in the temple.
3. Read Hebrews 9:11-15. What was the job of the High Priest? Who is our new High Priest forever? What did Jesus do to become our new High Priest?

Activity: Make a Temple Curtain

Supplies:

Card stock or cardboard (any size)
Paint, crayons, or markers

Make it:

Take a rectangular piece of card stock or cardboard and decorate it with paint, crayons, or markers. You can be as creative or simple as you want. One year we splattered paint on pieces of card stock. You could even color it with chalk. For older children you could have them design and color a temple curtain or model it after the biblical description for the first temple in 2 Chronicles 3:14.

The Grand Finale:

On Easter Sunday have the "curtains" torn in two waiting for your kids. You can put them in their Easter baskets, display them on a table, hang them on string in a window, or even have your children tear the temple curtain from top to bottom at breakfast or lunch.

Celebrate with Scripture:

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24 ESV

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." - Romans 6:9-11 ESV

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**Praise
God
from
whom
all
blessings
flow**

www.sheprovesfaithful.com/blog/curtain