

Study 5 Exodus 25:1-40:38 God Stays

Disastrous and fragile. That's what seems to be going on in the Israel-God relationship. The Golden Calf incident is spectacular, and even though the book ends on somewhat of a high, you can't help but feel God's not going to hang around...

1. Why do you think people like to feel that someone else is with them, or watching over them?

It's easy to get lost in Exodus 25-30 - it's full of detailed instructions from God to Moses on how to build the tabernacle, what it's supposed to look like, and who is supposed to work in it and what they're supposed to be wearing when they do. But while we may find it hard to digest and appreciate the level of detail, we need to appreciate the significance of what's happening.

Read Exodus 25:1-9

Quick Questions

2. Before the tabernacle construction can begin, what are the Israelites to do? (v.1-7)

3. How are they going to know what to build? (v.9)

4. What's going to happen when they finish the tabernacle? (v.8)

Think it Through

5. Why might it have been important for Israel to follow these instructions exactly?

6. How is it that the God who created all things could live in a temple made by human hands? How could God 'dwell' among Israel?

Think it Through

14. How did the Israelites couch their sin so as to make it look acceptable?

15. How did sin affect God dwelling among Israel?

But while that probably should have been God's final word to Israel, it wasn't. He graciously perseveres.

Read Exodus 34:1-10

Quick Questions

16. How does God describe himself? (34:6-7)

17. What's His reason for persevering with Israel?

It would have been so easy for God to discard Israel because of their continued failure. But if we're going to be honest with ourselves, we're no better. It would be just as easy for God to give up on us as well. So why doesn't he? And how does he put up with our sin?

Read 1 John 1:8-2:6

Think it Through

18. John is writing to Christians here. What's his assumption about Christians and sin? (1:8, 1:10, 2:1)

19. On what basis can we be confident before God even when we fail? (2:1-2)

20. So even though we know we're going to stumble, what is it Christians are striving for?
Why? (2:3-6)

21. Do you struggle to feel acceptable to God because of ongoing sin? What would John say to you?

22. Do you cover over sin and look at it in ways that make it seem acceptable? What would John say to you?