

WEEK 9 | *EXODUS 25-31 & 35-40*

THE ONE WHO LIVES WITH US

It's easy to get lost in the details of Exodus 25-40. It's full of detailed instructions from God about how to build the tabernacle, the tent where he will meet with his people. While the detail can be overwhelming at times, it's there to help us feel the weight of what's necessary for sinful people to be in God's presence.

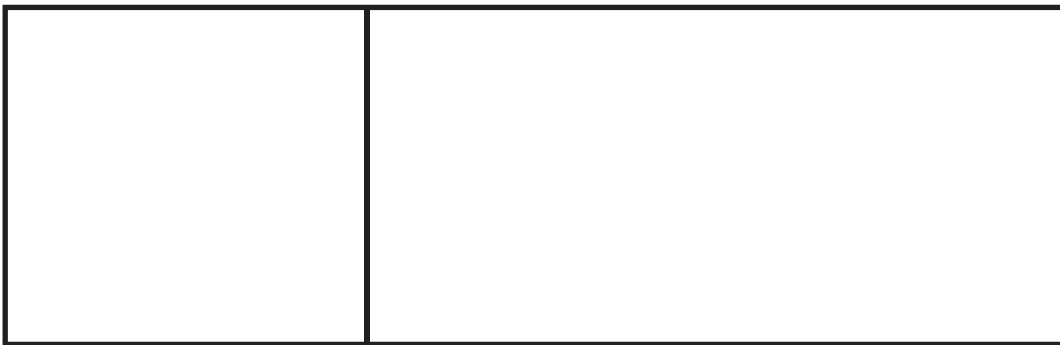
Ever since creation, God had always intended to be with his people - in Genesis 2, God walks with Adam and Eve in the Garden. But that scene was replaced with separation and alienation after mankind's rebellion against God. From that point on, God works towards re-establishing a relationship with his people - which is tangibly seen in the building of the tabernacle.



KNOWING GOD IN EXODUS

Read Exodus 25:1-9

1. What are the Israelites asked to do in verses 1-7 before the construction begins?
2. What's the purpose of the Tabernacle?
3. Using the following floor plan, skim through chapters 25-27 and fill in what was to be placed in the tabernacle. Why do you think there is so much detail about the tabernacle (almost half of Exodus is dedicated to planning and building it)?



Even though God's promising to live with his people (the high point of Exodus), the people of Israel don't feel the full weight of their new housemate. Last week we saw how the people turned from God and created their own god to serve (the golden calf). Despite Israel's failure, God is gracious and he promises to live with Israel if they continue to be faithful.

In light of God's justice and mercy (Exodus 34:6-10), the Israelites are quick to change their tune and promise to be obedient as they fully grasp the full weight of God. Chapters 35-40 describe how the Israelites obediently construct the tabernacle from the designs found earlier in Exodus.

Read Exodus 40:33-38

4. What shows that God is living with his people?

5. Even though God is living with his people, there still seems to be a separation between God and his people (v.35). Why do you think this is?
6. Do you think knowing God lived with you would have been comforting for Israel? Why or why not? (Think back to what they've experienced with God so far in Exodus.)

Even though God lives with his people, the full weight of God is too overwhelming – even Moses can't enter the tabernacle when God is in residence. God desires to have a personal relationship with his people, but as long as sin remains, seeing him face to face is just not possible.

KNOWING GOD IN JESUS

Read John 1:14-18

7. It's helpful to note that the word "dwelling" in verse 14 could be translated "tabernacled". What is John saying about God's presence and glory now?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

8. Who or what is God's temple or tabernacle now? What are some of the weighty implications of this?

FEEL THE WEIGHT

If you trust in Jesus, God now lives in you by his Spirit. Just like the Tabernacle, only better. The God of Exodus! Living with you! That's heavy!

9. If you trust in Jesus, the weighty God of Exodus is with you at all times. How is this challenging? How is it comforting? (**Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20** as an example of how this affects one area of life.)



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