



Exodus Study Questions

Week 13

What would you say about someone who took interest in something simply because you're interested in it? How would you think about a person who reengineered his schedule to fit yours? What if she drove far out of her way to see you? Would you say she's crazy?! Would you say he's desperate or lonely?! Of course not! This is a person who simply desires to be with you, who values to be present with you. This week in Exodus, we're taking a look at just how committed God is to be present with His people and how His people are to respond.

Main Text: Exodus 25:1-9 & 35:1-36:7

Connect

1. What kind of out-of-the-ordinary things have you done or sacrificed in order to be present with someone you really wanted to be around?
2. What did you find most significant from this week's sermon?

Understand

1. Read 25:1-9, 35:4-9 and 35:20-29. Remind each other of how these former slaves in Egypt acquired such vast resources.
2. What does the text say in 25:8-9 about the purpose of the tabernacle?
3. Read 35:10-19 and 35:30-36:1. What does the text say about how these former brick-makers acquired the skills required to construct the tabernacle and its ornate furnishings?
4. Read 36:2-7. How would you characterize or describe the actions of the people as they contributed their resources to the construction of the tabernacle and its furnishings?
5. John 1:14 says about Jesus that, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." The word *dwelt* conveys "pitched his tent" or "tabernacled."¹ How is the life of Jesus a fulfillment of what the tabernacle represented?

Apply

1. Ultimately, God gave the resources and skills required for the tabernacle's construction. What kind of thoughts or feelings stir up in you as you think about the display of God's generosity so that He could be present with us?
2. The people gave generously toward the construction of the tabernacle! In other words, it was costly to them. What is God's presence worth to you? Do you see it as costly to us today? Talk about this with your group.
3. God equips or gifts His people through the Holy Spirit to carry out His work. How familiar are you with how He has equipped you? Check out 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and Romans 12:3-8 for examples.²
4. Jesus' life meant God was present with His people in the flesh rather than in a cloud-filled tabernacle. What does it mean to you that God would go to such great lengths to be with us? What does this say about how much He values being present with us?

Notes:

1. George R. Beasley-Murray writes that, "Into that condition of human weakness the Logos 'pitched his tent'...and revealed his glory...The language is evocative of the revelation of God's glory in the Exodus—by the Red Sea, on Mount Sinai, and at the tent of meeting by Israel's camp...The Exodus associations are intentional, and are part of the theme of the revelation and redemption of the Logos-Christ as fulfilling the hope of a *second Exodus*." (Vol. 36 of *Word Biblical Commentary*, p.14)
2. These are not exhaustive lists, but supply examples of how God equips people to accomplish His work in and through the Church. If you're unfamiliar with how you might be gifted, talk with others in your group, your group leader, or the church staff about how you can begin to better understand your gifts.