



# EXODUS

YHWH GOES TO WAR!

## **Small Group Guide: The Tabernacle - God's Dwelling Place**

**Based on Exodus 25-30**

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### **Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)**

**Icebreaker Question: What's the most meaningful place you've ever met with God? What made that place or moment special?**

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### **Sermon Summary (5 minutes)**

**This sermon explores God's instructions for building the tabernacle—not as a construction manual, but as a revelation of who God is and how He reaches out to humanity. From the Garden of Eden to the tabernacle, to Jesus Christ, and finally to us as living temples, we see God's relentless pursuit to dwell with His people. The tabernacle's design, materials, and furniture all point to God bringing heaven to earth and restoring the fellowship lost in the fall.**

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### **Key Takeaways**

- 1. God Reaches Out to Us - We cannot get to God on our own; He comes to us in mercy**
- 2. The Progression from Bronze to Gold - Moving from outside to inside the tabernacle represents moving from the broken world into God's holy presence**

- 3. Jesus is the True Temple - The incarnation brought God and humanity together perfectly**
  - 4. We Are Living Stones - As believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we are now mobile temples carrying God's presence into the world**
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## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding the Text (15 minutes)**

- 1. The Tabernacle's Design: What stood out to you about the specific details God gave for the tabernacle? Why do you think God was so particular about how it should be built? (Reference Exodus 25:9)**
- 2. The Furniture's Symbolism:**
  - **What did the bronze altar represent? (dealing with sin)**
  - **What did the table of showbread remind Israel of? (God's covenant)**
  - **What did the lampstand symbolize? (the Garden of Eden)**
  - **Why was the mercy seat called by that name?**
- 3. Heaven Meets Earth: The curtain was blue, purple, and scarlet—representing the sky. What does this tell us about what God was creating in the tabernacle?**

### **Applying the Truth (20 minutes)**

- 4. From Temple to Temples: The sermon traced God's presence from the tabernacle, to the temple, to Jesus, to us. How does understanding this progression change how you view your own body and life?**

- 5. The Torn Curtain: The pastor suggested flipping our perspective—the curtain being torn wasn't primarily about us getting to God, but about God's presence bursting out into His creation through us. How does this shift in perspective impact your understanding of your mission as a Christian?**
- 6. Mobile Tabernacles: The sermon emphasized that we are "mobile tabernacles" carrying God's presence wherever we go.**
  - **Where do you go regularly that needs the presence of God?**
  - **What would it look like to be more intentional about being God's presence in those places?**
- 7. Living Stones in Action: The sermon gave examples of the church being "living stones"—serving at REACH, helping people move, fixing a truck.**
  - **When have you experienced or witnessed the church being "living stones"?**
  - **What opportunities do you currently have to be a living stone for someone?**

#### **Going Deeper (15 minutes)**

- 8. Holy Living: Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we're not our own. How should this truth affect:**
  - **What we watch and listen to?**
  - **How we treat our physical bodies?**
  - **The way we speak to and about others?**
  - **Our thought life?**

9. **The Covenant Meal:** The bread of the presence reminded Israel of God's covenant with them. How does communion (the Lord's Supper) serve a similar purpose for us today?
10. **Representing God:** In the Garden of Eden, humanity was meant to represent God to His creation. Through Christ, we're restored to that purpose. What character qualities of God do you most want to represent to others this week?
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### **Personal Reflection (5 minutes)**

Take a few minutes of silence for personal reflection:

- In what area of your life are you most struggling to live as a "temple of the Holy Spirit"?
  - Where is God calling you to carry His presence this week?
  - What is one specific way you can love God with all your heart and love others this week?
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### **Practical Application**

**This Week's Challenge:**

**Be Intentional About Being a Mobile Temple**

**Choose ONE of the following:**

1. **Identify Your Mission Field:** Write down 3-5 places you go regularly (work, gym, coffee shop, neighborhood, etc.). Pray specifically that God would use you as His presence in those places. Look for one opportunity to demonstrate God's love there this week.
2. **The "Living Stone" Challenge:** Find one practical need in your church, neighborhood, or family and meet it this week. Remember—you're not just meeting a need, you're bringing the presence of God.

**3. Temple Inventory: Do a personal inventory using 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Ask yourself:**

- Am I honoring God with my body?
- Am I honoring God with my words?
- Am I honoring God with my thoughts?
- Choose one area to focus on improving this week.

**4. Study the Tabernacle: Read Exodus 25-30 on your own this week. Journal about what each piece of furniture teaches you about God's character and His desire to be with His people.**

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**Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for:**

- Thanksgiving that God has made us His temples through the Holy Spirit
- Wisdom to represent God well wherever we go
- Specific needs mentioned in your group
- The Crum family and Lily (mentioned in the sermon)
- Opportunities to be "living stones" this week

**Closing Prayer Focus: Ask God to help each person see themselves as a mobile temple carrying His presence into a dark world.**

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**Additional Resources**

**Scripture for Further Study:**

- Exodus 25-30 (the full tabernacle instructions)
- John 1:14 (the Word became flesh and "tabernacled" among us)

- **John 2:19-22 (Jesus speaking of His body as the temple)**
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (your body is a temple)**
- **1 Peter 2:4-5 (living stones being built into a spiritual house)**
- **Ezekiel 47 (living waters flowing from the temple)**

#### **Questions to Ponder:**

- **How does understanding the tabernacle help you understand Jesus better?**
  - **What does it mean practically that wherever you go, the presence of God goes?**
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#### **Leader Notes**

- **Be sensitive to the fact that the sermon mentioned a family (the Crums) dealing with a serious health situation with Lily. If group members know this family, allow time for prayer.**
- **The concept of being a "temple" might be new to some. Take time to explain and make sure everyone understands before moving to application.**
- **Encourage concrete, specific applications rather than general commitments.**
- **Celebrate stories of people being "living stones" during the discussion time.**