



Week 2: Old Testament

Big Idea: God bridged heaven and earth by pursuing His people through justice and mercy

Sermon Overview: Follows the Story of God through the Old Testament to see how God found ways to Dwell with His people and His call on people to seek to Dwell with Him. We will see God coming down instead of God expecting man to come up.

Scripture to Read: Exodus 19.16-20, 20.18-19, 25.1-8, 40.34-35; 2 Chronicles 7.1-3; Ezekiel 8.4, 43.1-12, 36.26-28, 47.1-12, 48.35

(You don't have to read all of it during group. This would be good for you to read ahead of time to prepare well.)

Questions to Ponder:

- In reading through the explanation of God showing up at Mt. Sinai (Ex 19.16-20) it is understandable that the people reacted the way that they did (Ex 20.18-19). When you think of the presence of God, does it make you tremble in fear?
- How would you describe the purpose of the Tabernacle and Temple?
- *Read the headings found in Exodus 25-27* What do you think the significance of the order God gives the instruction is? Why does it matter that God is giving the instructions from the inside to the outside?
- Why does it matter that God's Spirit filled the Tabernacle (Ex 40.34-35) and the Temple (2 Chron 7.1-3) at their dedications?
- What did it mean for God's presence to depart from the Temple (Ez 8-10)?
- Why does it matter that God's presence didn't show up when they built the new temple in Ezra/Nehemiah?
- While in our wandering state, what is our attitude towards God? To hide? To seek to dwell with God?

Goals for Connection Group Discussion:

- Connect the lostness and wandering of Adam & Eve to the Israelites and ultimately to humanity today.
- In the OT God would meet His people in the Tabernacle & the Temple (the place where Heaven and Earth meet) at the Mercy Seat (the place where God emphasized justice through mercy) and always required sacrifice.
- See how the Tabernacle and Temple both look back to Eden and foreshadow forward to Christ.