

The



Compass

August 23 - August 29, 2010

Faith Journey - Adventures in Trust
Creating a Place for God

Overview

God is omnipresent. That means He is literally everywhere. Psalm 139:7 says, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?” But, there is also an element of “place” in the Bible. The creation of the tabernacle in Exodus provided a “place” where the people of Israel could identify the presence of God. Today, we are not limited by a church building. For each of us, creation of a “place” for experiencing God is important today.

Exodus 35-40

This week our focal passages are Exodus 35:4-29 and 36:4-7, and our overall text is Exodus 35-40. We'll read a chapter a day. Use your own Bible, and plan to bring your Bible to the worship service each week. Here is the reading schedule for this week.

Monday – Exodus 35

Tuesday – Exodus 36

Wednesday – Exodus 37

Thursday – Exodus 38

Friday – Exodus 39

Saturday – Exodus 40

Memory Verse – Exodus 40:34

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (NIV)

Biblical Context

God explains to the Israelites the importance of worshipping Him together. He has given Moses some specific directions on creating a holy place of worship for His special people and wants them to dedicate themselves to the creation of this special place and to do their part in fulfilling what God is asking them to do. The specific instructions are God's way of letting the people know that they are set apart special for Him.

Our Context

With three kids at home, Laura struggled to find time with God. She had tried mornings and evenings and a variety of studies, but there were always interruptions and issues of fatigue. Then, she created her own "sacred space" by placing a rocking chair in her closet where she could go at any time in the day. The "rule" for the children was, "No interruptions when Mom's in the closet."

Monday – August 23rd

First Impressions

Read though your Compass from last week and review the Scripture (Exodus 32). What is one take away you had from last week's study?

This week we will look at a different chapter each day. Read twice through Exodus 35 today. What was the purpose of the “offering for the Lord” in this passage?

What common words do you see repeated throughout the chapter? What significance do they have?

Tuesday – August 24th

Focus: We see God’s design for a Holy place of worship for his people.

Read: Exodus 36. Reflect on this passage before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. Why do you think the details of the tabernacle were so important?

2. What is significant about the response of the people of Israel in this chapter?

Apply: What specific skill or ability did God give you to work within the church? Write down a way you might serve in your church.

Wednesday – August 25th

Focus: God uses special symbols in worship to draw our attention to His work in us.

Read: Exodus 37 through twice before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. What is the significance of the four symbols God directs them to create in this chapter?
2. What do you notice different about the description of the creation of the ark as opposed to the other objects?

Apply: Memorize this week's memory verse (Exodus 40:34). Write it out below as you memorize it.

Thursday – August 26th

Focus: God was lavish in creating the place of worship for His people.

Read: Exodus 38. Take a short walk to reflect before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. How do the two symbols introduced in this chapter fit with the ones described in yesterday's reading?
2. Why do you think God provided such specific descriptions of the courtyard?
3. What are your first thoughts about the amount of materials used to build the tabernacle and its contents?

Apply: Thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on you through your church.

Friday – August 27th

Focus: God's worship leaders are additional reminders of God's work among His people.

Read: Exodus 39 through twice. Reflect before answering the questions.

Discover:

1. What are your impressions of the garments made for the priests?

2. What was the condition for the people to receive Moses' blessing? Why would that be important?

Apply: Creating a special place for God to meet you can be both a public and private matter. Do you have a special place? If not, how could you set one up today?

Saturday – August 28th

Focus: The tabernacle was a physical place where the people could see God's glory.

Read: Read Exodus 40. Take time to reflect on all of the passages from this week.

Apply: Once the tabernacle was set up as God had commanded the people, His glory filled the tabernacle.

Think back over all of this week's studies. What stands out to you from all of your reading? Spend time today preparing your heart to meet with God tomorrow at your church service. Ask God to show you His glory in a special way and to prepare the hearts of His people.

Base Camp Suggestions

Eating together...

Talk about ways your relationships have deepened in the past year.

Being family together...

Gather the group together including kids. Ask, “What is your favorite memory from our last year together as a Base Camp?”

Applying together...

1. How does frequency of gathering affect our depth and effectiveness?
2. What are specific ways we can increase frequency of connection as a group?
3. If we are to be a multi-functioning community, in what other communal functions do we need to grow as a group?
4. What specific steps can we take to grow?

Praying together...

Get in smaller groups and share your answer to #3 above. Take time to specifically pray for each other to move more and more in the direction of making God first.

For Families with a Child in Tiny Town (0 to Pre-K)

Verse: “The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” (Exodus 40:34b)

Before talking with your child, please read the focal passages from Exodus, especially Exodus 35:21 and Ex 36:6-7. Be amazed!

Activity: Work with your child, as the Israelites worked together, to gather “tent building supplies” for an indoor tent! As you work, remind your child how God asked the Israelites long ago to build a place for Him to meet with them. Get as creative as you can. Try to make your tent big enough for your entire family. Make sure your child knows we can talk to God anywhere, anytime about anything. After building your tent, invite a neighbor or two over to play with your child and enjoy the tent.

If your child learned the verse and completed this or another of our family activities, return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Adventure Quest

Read together and discuss Exodus 40:34-38. God filled the tabernacle with His glory. Later, Solomon built a temple, and God filled the temple with His glory. When the Israelites turned from God, God removed His glory and the temple was destroyed. When Jesus came to Earth and taught in the temple, God had a better plan. The good news is, when Jesus died and then rose from the dead, a physical building was no longer needed. Followers of Christ became God's temple. How can we as families be the temple of God on our streets?

Kids, at your next Base Camp, plan together what you can do to bring Christ to the other kids in your neighborhood.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station with your signature.

Parent Signature

Date

For Families with a Child In Elevate

Read Exodus 40 together and discuss how Moses was very careful to obey God's instructions. How should we apply this to our lives today? Look at Exodus 40:34-38. Discuss how the tabernacle was God's home on Earth. Later Solomon built a temple to replace it, and God glorified it. When the Israelites turned away from God, He removed His glory and it was destroyed. When Jesus died for us and rose again, followers of Christ became His temple. We are the church. How can you be His temple in your neighborhood?

Make a plan with the kids in your Base Camp to show Christ's love in your neighborhood.

If your child learned the verse and completed this activity, please return this page to the check-in station.

Parent Signature

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Student Base Camp Ideas

God took great care in every detail of the construction of the tabernacle. He created a sacred space for people to meet with Him. Imagine the implications of what this means for us because we are His prize creation.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. God's new covenant with us says our body is the new sacred space God's Holy Spirit indwells. Spend time talking about what this means to you.
2. What happened when the Israelites gave from their hearts? Read over Exodus 36:4-7 again.
3. How can we offer all we have to God knowing we are bought with a price? Knowing how God took great care with the tabernacle, how does this make you feel since you are His new dwelling place?
4. Spend time sharing and praying for one another about how we can use all we have for the glory of God!

Sermon and Connection Class Notes

Mission and Vision

Our mission at Tri-Lakes Chapel is to help people connect: intimately with God, intentionally with God's family, and influentially with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical community on every street in the Tri-Lakes region.

To this end, we have designed this Compass with a holistic, communal approach to spiritual growth that we believe will grow us together to be more like Jesus. This approach has four elements which work in an integrated fashion.

They are:

Household - Using this resource daily, both personally and communally, as our road map to integrated, spiritual growth.

Base Camp - Small groups meeting in homes to live life together while applying the message of the week.

Connection Class - Mid-size Sunday groups digging deeper together through detailed teaching and discussion.

Worship Service - Coming together corporately to focus on and respond to the heart of the week's passage.

We believe this integrated approach will bring dynamic growth in and through our Tri-Lakes family. Our hope is to experience communal, spiritual transformation as we - together-engage at all four levels.