

By The Numbers

God's Presence Among His People | Numbers 9:15 – 23

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CONNECT

1. If you could live anywhere you want, where would you choose to live and why?

The passages you are about to study focuses on where God has chosen to live among His people during the Old Testament, Jesus ministry, and the New Testament. You and your small group will begin to consider the impact and importance of God's dwelling in your life.

EXPLORE

From the time the Israelites fled Egypt and entered the wilderness, God accompanied them periodically by means of a special cloud. One year later, Israel set up the tabernacle – which housed the ark of the covenant and where God met with the people. The tabernacle was approximately 45 feet long by 15 feet wide by 15 feet high. It consisted of a sectionalized wooden frame covered by four layers of material that consisted of linen on the inside, then woven goat hair, then ramskin leather, then sea cow hide. On the inside it was divided into two compartments: The Holy Place which was about 30 by 15 feet and the Most Holy Place which was about 15 by 15 feet. The Most Holy Place was a cube. The tabernacle was put up on the west side of a surrounding courtyard measuring about 150 by 75 feet. All around this courtyard, except for an entryway on the eastern side, was a curtain almost 8 feet high.

2. As a small group, read Numbers 9:15 – 23. How many times and ways does this passage refer to the cloud?
3. What do you think God meant by choosing a cloud? How would this help Moses lead the people?
4. How would having God lead you by a cloud make obeying Him easier than if He were completely invisible?
5. The Old Testament progressively develops the theme of God in the midst of His people. The birth of Jesus Christ, however, marked the beginning of the final phase. The Gospel of John says literally that “the Word became flesh and (tabernacled) among us” (John 1:14). How does John describe his experience of living with Jesus in John 1:14 – 18?

6. During His incarnation, Jesus fulfilled God's promise to tabernacle or dwell with His people. How is He dwelling among His people now?
- Matthew 18:20
 - John 14:16 – 17
 - John 14:23
7. Describe in your own words what will be the final and ultimate feature of the new order God will establish at the end of time according to Revelation 21:1 – 4?

APPLY

8. If you believe God dwells (tabernacles) in you, are you keeping Him at the door of your life? In certain rooms? Why? Or have you given him the key to your whole life? Or are you keeping Him locked only in certain rooms of your life? (Be as specific as you are comfortable)
9. How should the reality of God living in you affect how you live your life today?