

Adult Group Study Guide for August 9, 2020

Series: "Exodus"

Message: "When You Go Camping with God..."

Goal: To learn lessons from God's gift of the tabernacle to the people of Israel.

Key Verse: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* – John 1:14 (NIV2011)

1. Share some memories of your camping trips in the past. How did going camping strengthen your family ties? (If you have never gone camping, think about the trips or retreats that you have experienced with other people.)
2. Review the plan for the tabernacle in Exodus 35-40. What made this tent with a fenced courtyard so special? What lessons did it teach the people of Israel about how to worship God? For a short tour of the tabernacle with parallels to Christ, watch the video narrated by Kay Warren at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgqLsnzG6gM>. If you have children in your home, watch this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9GHHJpjnds>. For a quick overview of Exodus 19-40, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNpTha80yyE&t=3s>.
3. From Exodus 32-33 we learn that God almost decided not to go camping with his people. Read Exodus 33:3-4; 7-11; 15-17. Why did God change his mind? How did worship in the tabernacle reflect both God's holiness and forgiveness?
4. Read John 1:14. The Greek word that is translated "made his dwelling" comes from the word "tabernacle" meaning "pitched his tent." Why did Jesus go camping on this earth?
5. Read Revelation 21:1-5 and 21:22-24. Compare this promise of the holy city coming down from heaven to God's presence in the tabernacle. Why is this promise central to the gospel? Why will there be no need for a tabernacle or a temple when Jesus comes again?
6. What difference will these three lessons from the tabernacle make in your life?
 - a. God is Personal. God wants to move from the outside to the center of your life. What would happen if your life were built around the worship of God?
 - b. God is Present. God is not here one day and gone tomorrow. What difference does the promise Matthew 20:20 make in the way you see the world?
 - c. God is Preparing. God is not only preparing a place for us but is also preparing us for that place. How is God using this pandemic to transform your life? (Romans 8:28)