Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 26: Step Through the Curtain

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 26. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

Chapter 26 describes the Tabernacle framework with the curtains surrounding the outer court and the curtains to cover the inner court. There are many numbers, dimensions and details given so that everything designed would be exactly as God spoke. In today’s devotional, we will focus on the structure surrounding the outer court.

Entering the Tabernacle requires that you step through the curtain at the East entrance, the only way into the outer courtyard. Exodus 27:9--19 gives the dimensions and details of the outer court of the tabernacle. The Tabernacle would fit into the size of half of a football field. It was set up with posts (7 ½ feet high) placed around the 150 foot x 75 foot perimeter. There were 20 posts on the north and south sides and 10 posts on the west and east sides. White fine linen curtains were attached to the posts on the north, south and west sides. The entrance into the outer courtyard was a curtain made of fine linen woven with blue, scarlet and purple which extended thirty feet on the east side of the tabernacle. There were 22 ½ feet on each side of this colorful curtain of fine white linen curtains. The entrance gate was centered & beautiful; a contrast from the rest of the linen curtains. It beckoned one to enter. It was an inviting sight, bringing color and beauty in the midst of the wilderness.

The wilderness of our culture moves people near the curtain, for it beckons still today. The only way in is through the gate entrance, Jesus. We see Him in the woven blue, scarlet and purple curtain. The blue represents communion, heaven and revelation. Jesus came from heaven to make His dwelling among us (John 1:14) to give forth revelation and new insight being the fulfillment of the law. His desire was to commune with the people of God, to live among us. This is the same desire that God had in making a dwelling for His Glory that we see in the construction of the tabernacle. The purple yarn woven in the fabric describes the royalty and authority that Jesus has over all creation. And the scarlet speaks to the cross; the blood shed for the atonement of the sins of the world. Jesus beckons us to come into the courtyard. Step through the gate to experience a life of freedom and growth; a stark contrast to the vast wilderness in which we live.

The curtain speaks of the invitation to enter into a life with Christ Jesus. It is a compelling invitation to every man and woman. My life changed completely when I stepped through the curtain. In John 10:9 Jesus tells us, “*I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture.”* What a promise. After stepping through the curtain, provision, healing, freedom, growth, peace and intimacy with Jesus has been my treasure. Once I went through the gate, there was no turning around. Nothing this world could offer me compares to what knowing Christ has provided. In Philippians 3:8-9 Paul says it this way, “*What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ~ the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*” This is good news!

Each one of us is on a journey of faith. And each person has to make a choice, whether to pass through the gate or not. No one can make the decision for you and you cannot “get in” because your parents walked through the gate or because you were raised in a church, baptized, did good things, helped the poor, or gave money to various ministries. The Bible is very clear. There is only one way into the Kingdom of God and that way is JESUS. Only Jesus. John 14:6 Jesus says, “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*”

His grace leads us through the gate entrance. Noah Webster’s dictionary defines grace as “The divine favor toward man; the mercy of God, as distinguished from His justice; also, any benefits His mercy imparts; divine love or pardon; a state of acceptance with God; enjoyment of the divine favor”. Each one must wrestle with the truth that our sin nature must be dealt with. Death is the punishment for sin. And not one of us is excluded from the truth of sin. For all have sinned. “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23.* There is no good in us apart from Christ.

A physical border created by posts, frames and curtains which was a daily reminder of the separation between the people and God. The boundary was established. Levite tribes were placed around the tabernacle structure to protect the tribes of Israel from accidentally coming upon the presence or Holiness of the Lord. We don’t see a physical representation in this time of history.

Spiritually we are separated from God until a decision is made to enter the tabernacle through the gate. The journey of faith begins here outside the gate at the east entrance. There are those who have not yet chosen to move past the curtain, to take the first step of faith. I pray that all who participate in *Discovering Exodus* will be moved by the love of God to take the first step or the next step in your individual journey towards deeper intimacy with the Lord, as depicted in a physical structure, the Tabernacle.

**Reflection**:

1. When did you walk through the gate, Jesus, into a new life in Christ? Describe how it happened. How has your life changed?
2. If you haven’t walked through the gate, Jesus, into a new life in Christ, what is keeping you outside the Tabernacle? If you have questions, is there someone you can talk to about those?
3. DIAGRAM DRAWING: Read through Exodus 26 for more details.

Use black dots or short lines to represent the pillars/posts that form the boundary to the outer court of the Tabernacle (60 all together). On the North and South sides, there are 20 pillars/posts. On the West side, there are 10 pillars/posts. Draw a thin white curtain over the dots or short lines that represents the linen curtains. At the East side, there are 10 pillars/posts total with the gate entrance in the center of this side. 4 pillars/posts support the entrance curtains and 3 pillars/posts support the linen curtains on either side. Draw a thin white curtain over the 3 pillars on both sides of the entrance. Draw a combination of blue, purple and scarlet in the gate to represent the beautiful entrance to the Tabernacle.