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

Chapter 40: God’s People, Promise, Presence

**□ 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 40. 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.

Exodus 40 is the culmination of God’s desire to dwell with His chosen people. The book of Exodus summarized in 3 words: People, Promise, Presence. From the beginning of the book, God is passionate about a people to be His very own. Moses was born to be the deliverer of God’s people, Israel, from Egypt’s oppression. God moved in powerful signs and wonders as He brought the plagues upon Egypt until at last Pharaoh released the Israelites from his heavy-handed grasp. God’s miraculous provision is seen from the parting of the Red Sea to the daily food provision in manna to water coming forth from a rock to satisfy their thirst. We read in Deuteronomy that neither the Israelites’ clothes nor their shoes wore out for the 40 years in the desert. God loves Israel and He made them covenant promises. He called them His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation. He bound Himself to Israel and He promised to defend them from their enemies and He would treat Israel with mercy, grace, and loving-kindness. The best promise of all was that God’s Presence would be with them. He would not leave them alone.

God’s Presence among the Israelite community is fully expressed in Exodus 40. The Tabernacle and all its furnishings were completed and Moses finished the work. Verses 34-35 tell us, “*Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle*”. For the time of Israel’s wanderings in the wilderness, God was with them. “*In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the Tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was over the Tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels*,” Exodus 40:36-37. The book of Exodus concludes with God’s Presence dwelling among His chosen people as He had promised.

**Reflection:** We have discussed the Tabernacle of Moses for many days and we can each find ourselves somewhere around it or at some area in the Tabernacle. I want to take a little time to search your heart about where you can be found in the Tabernacle model. God’s desire is that each one of us would be found in the Holy of Holies. He loves us so much and longs to be in an intimate relationship with us, but we don’t start there.

Before you leave this devotional, ask yourself where you are? Read through the descriptions on the next page. Are you outside the tabernacle, in the outer court, the holy place or the most holy place? Do you go from one to the next and back again. God knows our hearts. He knows that we are “*dark but lovely” (Song of Solomon 1:5)*, which means to say that He knows the darkness of our hearts and yet to him we are lovely. God sees us through the lenses of eternity. He’s got the “big picture”. Let the Holy Spirit set your heart free, so you can live in Him, with no condemnation, no legalism, just in love with your Jesus! Be real with yourself and with the Lord where you are at on this journey. Let Him lovingly lead you and guide you into each room of the Tabernacle, and enjoy the journey with Jesus. Record your thoughts in this space.

### Outside the Tabernacle-- Exploring

This is a time of exploring God, who He is and what He stands for. This place on the spiritual journey is of discovering God, but He is not a personal God. One may examine the Bible, talk with Christians, ask questions, and/or go to church to get some answers. There is no relationship with God yet, just looking for answers.

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| **Outer Court-- Beginning**This is beginning a relationship with God. Getting to know God personally and learning to love Him is part of the outer court experience. The only way into the outer court is through the entrance gate which is Jesus, so you have met Jesus at the “altar” (cross) and are being cleansed/washed in the basin of God’s Word, learning what to put off and what to put on. This is the beginning of transformation. Many Christians never move from this outer court into the deeper things of God. They settle here, reminding themselves that they have been bought by the blood of Jesus and they are saved from eternal punishment. There is a lack of understanding of the love that God has for them and the intimacy that He desires. The Christian life looks more like rules and regulations (do’s and don’ts). Holy Place-- FriendshipYou have moved through the veil into the inner court. God is becoming your best friend. You talk with Him every day, & are filled with the Holy Spirit. Meditating on the Word, worshipping and prayer is part of your life. A lot of time is invested in this relationship as you grow in intimacy. -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------Most Holy Place-- IntimacyLife is centered on intimacy with God. You are committed to God no matter what. You have laid your life down for Him. You are under the power of God’s Spirit who leads you and guides you. Surrendering ALL to Him, you have a maturity in Christ. Your life is hidden in Christ. Your life pours forth much fruit. Your greatest desire is to minister to the Lord and hear His heart. It’s all about Him, not you.  |