

SESSION 4

MIDWEEK EVENT

This midweek study will explore how our heart's desire should be to obey everything the Lord commands and finish well.

SCRIPTURE: **EXODUS 40:16-33**

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE • PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

God's intention for humanity is that we be a kingdom of priests, not just a kingdom with priests. Although God set up the priestly system in the Old Testament due to the sinfulness of humanity and people's need for a mediator, His ultimate purpose is that we come to God directly, through the mediating work of Jesus Christ, thus eliminating the need of another priest. Because of the work of Christ on the cross, exemplified in the tearing of the curtain that prevented access into the holy of holies, Christians are free to approach God with boldness (Rom. 5:1-5; Heb. 4:14-16).

CHRIST CONNECTION

The tabernacle is a reminder that God wants to dwell with His people. God would later dwell with His people in a greater way when Jesus came to "tabernacle" with us in order to bring us into God's presence.

1 EXODUS 40:16

OBEDIENCE IS DRIVEN BY A FAITHFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

Again, we see where Moses is faithful to all the Lord commanded Him to do. In our lives, obedience is driven because of our faithful relationship with the Lord. If we aren't obeying the Lord, it is probably a result of us not following what the Lord has called us to do. When we are tempted to disobey or go a different direction from what the Lord commanded, we must reject whatever is in the way of the Lord's will. When we listen to and obey the Lord, He will use us for His glory. God used Moses in mighty ways, but he had to submit to the Lord's leading and do everything the Lord commanded.

2 EXODUS 40:17-32

THE DETAILS MATTER TO GOD.

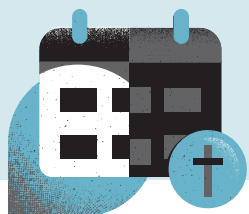
God desires for us to obey every step of the way—in the small details and the big details. The Lord had a certain way He wanted Moses to have things done. We see this in other areas of Scripture as well. When God commanded Noah to build the ark, He gave him specific instructions for the measurements and how the ark should be constructed. Noah obeyed. Moses obeyed. Will you? In verses 17-32, we see specific instructions

on the placement and building of the tabernacle, the testimony, the mercy seat, the table in the tent meeting, the altars, and so on. Details matter to God—all of them. Sometimes, we may think of God as a "big picture" type. Yet, Scripture paints a different picture by telling us God knows the number of hairs on our head, we were knitted together in our mother's womb, and He knows our thoughts before they even come out of our mouth. God is the author of the big picture and the smallest of details.

3 EXODUS 40:33

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD SHOULD LEAD US TO FINISH WHAT HE HAS FOR US.

Verse 30 reveals to us that Moses finished the work. This does not mean God was completely done with Moses, but that in these moments and in this time, Moses did exactly what the Lord called him to do. Our desire should be to finish well what the Lord has called us to. Instead of asking questions like, "Lord, what am I supposed to do with my life?" (which is a great question to consider), we might ask things like, "Lord, what does faithfulness look like in this season or my life? How can I be faithful to your will at my high school? At my middle school?" Then, seek to accomplish that task and finish it well. By starting and finishing well, our lives speak to the fact that we are all in for the Lord!



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1 EXODUS 40:16

OBEDIENCE IS DRIVEN BY A FAITHFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A FAITHFUL AND GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD? WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN YOUR LIFE?

OUTSIDE OF MOSES, WHO ARE SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE? WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM PEOPLE LIKE THIS (INCLUDING MOSES) ABOUT FOLLOWING AND OBEYING THE LORD?

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF WE DON'T OBEY THE LORD AND DO ALL HE COMMANDED?

WHAT DOES IT COMMUNICATE WHEN WE DON'T FOLLOW THE LORD'S LEADING?

2 EXODUS 40:17-32

THE DETAILS MATTER TO GOD.

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE GOD IS CONCERNED WITH EVEN THE SMALLEST OF DETAILS IN OUR LIVES? WHAT DOES THIS TELL YOU ABOUT THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD?

WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED WITH EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES GLORIFYING GOD?

IF WE FEEL LED TO LEAD IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION BY GOD, BUT THEN ACT IN ANOTHER WAY, HOW MIGHT THAT BE PROBLEMATIC? WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ONE'S FAITH IN GOD?

3 EXODUS 40:33

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD SHOULD LEAD US TO FINISH WHAT HE HAS FOR US.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ALL IN FOR THE LORD? HOW DID MOSES DISPLAY THIS IN THIS SEASON OF HIS LIFE? WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM PEOPLE LIKE MOSES?

WHY SHOULD WE FINISH WELL? WHAT DOES THIS

COMMUNICATE ABOUT OUR TESTIMONY FOR THE LORD?

WHAT DOES NOT FINISHING WELL LOOK LIKE?

NOTE TO STUDENT LEADER: HAVE STUDENTS CONSIDER WHAT FINISHING WELL LOOKS LIKE. MAYBE GIVE EXAMPLES FROM YOUR OWN LIFE.

WRAP IT UP

pletely d It should be our heart's desire to obey everything the Lord commands and finish well. This is vital to living a life that reflects Christ is working and moving in our lives.

Sample closing prayer:

Lord, help us to obey all you have commanded. In the moments that we struggle may we look to for strength and boldness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTIVITY

Have students team up in pairs of two and face each other standing about six feet apart. Then, have the first student turn around and face the opposite direction. Next, give the other student 30 seconds to change at least three things about their appearance. They could take their glasses off, roll a sleeve up, untie a shoe, etc. After they finish doing this, say, "Go," and give their teammate an allotted time (20 seconds or so) to turn back around and see if they can figure out what is different about their teammate. The winning team is the one who figures out the changes the quickest.

This game only works well if you follow directions carefully and pay attention to the details. It also helps to finish well. In today's passage, we will see Moses did exactly what the Lord commanded Him as He gave detailed instructions in terms of building the tabernacle.