



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** A Dwelling Place for God

**Text:** Exodus 25-31

**Theme:** The holy God atones for our sin and transforms our nature to restore our fellowship with him.

**Teaching Notes:** This section of Exodus gives lengthy instructions for the construction of the tabernacle and the functioning of the priesthood. These are patterned after heavenly realities that ultimately point to our redemption and reconciliation through the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

### Outline:

Introduction: God's nature and sin are profoundly incompatible.

#### 1. The necessity of coming to God on his terms.

- The design/function of the tabernacle allowed only one way of approach.

#### 2. The necessity of a mediator. (28:9-21, 29)

- The high priest literally bore the names of Israel on his heart when he appeared before the Lord.
- The priests sacrificed offerings for the sins of the people.

#### 3. The necessity of atonement.

- The bronze altar speaks of the need for a sacrifice to be offered in our place and for our sin.
- The bronze basin speaks of the need for cleansing.
- The mercy seat - literally "the atonement covering" stood between the Law and the glory of God.

#### 4. The necessity of fulfillment. (Hebrews 9)

- The pattern of the tabernacle pointed to the person and work of Jesus as the true means of access, the true mediator, and the true atonement.
- There's no tabernacle or temple anymore, because:
  - 1) Jesus is the ultimate reality the tabernacle was patterned after.
  - 2) You now are the Temple of the living God.



**Questions from Exodus 25-31 to explore individually and with your group:**

1. What's something you learned from this section of Scripture on the design for and staffing of the tabernacle?
2. Sin doesn't separate us from God simply because he's "offended" or angry, but because sin makes our nature profoundly incompatible with his. Explain. Why does this distinction matter?
3. Why was there only one way into the ancient tabernacle? What was that one way? How is that relevant to our lives today?
4. What about the high priest's garments demonstrates that he was a mediator? What about his day-to-day work demonstrates that he was a mediator? Why was that ministry necessary?
5. As you think about the furnishings of the tabernacle, what stands out? What would you like to learn more about?
6. The first person explicitly said to be filled with the Spirit in the Bible is a craftsman named Bezalel (Exodus 31:3-5). Why do you think Scripture makes this point here? What is the relevance to your vocation and work, the way you make or appreciate art, and the way you worship?
7. Read John 1:1-5 and 1:14. How does this relate to Exodus 25-31? What are some ways Jesus fulfills the pattern and imagery of the tabernacle? What are some ways his ministry was and is superior to the Old Covenant?
8. To reconcile sinners to himself, God doesn't merely forgive our sins, he gives us a new nature. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17-18.) What hope does that give you?
9. Why is there no tabernacle or temple today? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What are some implications for how you think about and treat your body?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this message?

**Prayer Prompts:**

1. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ for taking on human flesh to come and reconcile us to God by offering himself in our place and for our sins.
2. Confess where you don't treat your body with the value, beauty, and sacredness that the temple deserves.
3. Ask God to enable you to live out of your redeemed nature and genuinely enjoy his presence this week.