

TABERNACLES

Day 5 - Tabernacle and Temple

Introduction (to be read aloud by the patriarch)

From the beginning, God's desire has been to dwell with His people. In the wilderness, He commanded a tabernacle, a tent filled with His presence. Later, Solomon built the temple, a house of glory where heaven and earth touched. And when Christ came, the Word was made flesh and *dwelt*, literally *tabernacled*, among us.

The Feast of Tabernacles is not just about Israel's camping trip. It is about the God who refuses to remain far off. He chose to pitch His tent in the midst of His people. The tabernacle taught Israel that God's presence sanctifies. The temple declared His majesty and permanence. Christ's incarnation revealed the fullness, that God Himself comes to live, eat, and walk with His people.

As you sit in your booth today, remember this: God is not distant. He dwells with the humble. He inhabits the praises of His people. And He will one day establish His eternal dwelling in the New Jerusalem. The booths we raise, the Scriptures we read, the prayers we pray, all point to this truth: *our God tabernacles with us*.

Scripture Reading (KJV)

Exodus 25:8–9

8. *And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*
 9. *According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.*
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1 Kings 8:10–13

- 10. And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord,*
- 11. So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.*
- 12. Then spake Solomon, The Lord said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.*
- 13. I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.*
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Psalm 132:13–16

- 13. For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.*
- 14. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.*
- 15. I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread.*
- 16. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.*
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John 1:14

- 14. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
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John 2:19–21

- 19. Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*
- 20. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?*

21. *But he spake of the temple of his body.*

2 Corinthians 6:16

16. *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Revelation 21:22–23

22. *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

23. *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

Reflection

The booths of Tabernacles point to something greater. God is not content to visit; He dwells. First in a tabernacle, then in a temple, then in Christ Himself, and now in His Spirit within His people.

The sukkah you sit in today is not holy because of its branches. It is holy because of the God it points to, the God who makes His home with men. Each layer of history moves forward: temporary tent, permanent temple, incarnate Son, indwelling Spirit, eternal city. Tabernacles is the rehearsal of this truth: *God is not far off. He tabernacles with His people.*

Family Application / Activities

- Walk through your sukkah and remind your family: this is temporary. Then read Revelation 21 and rejoice that God's dwelling with us will one day be permanent.

- Discuss how Christ is both the temple and the priest who makes us acceptable before God.
 - As a family, sing a hymn or psalm that celebrates God's presence (such as Psalm 84).
 - Encourage your children to draw a picture of the tabernacle, the temple, and the New Jerusalem, showing God's dwelling through time.
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Discussion / Family Questions

For Young Children (Ages 5–8):

1. Who told Israel to build a tabernacle in the wilderness?
2. What filled Solomon's temple when it was finished?
3. Who came to "tabernacle" with us in the New Testament?

For Older Children / Teens (Ages 9–15):

1. Why was the tabernacle important for Israel in the wilderness?
2. How does Jesus show us that He is greater than the temple?
3. What does it mean that we are now the temple of God?

For Adults:

1. How does the tabernacle-to-temple-to-Christ progression show God's plan of dwelling with His people?
 2. What does it mean in practice that the Spirit dwells in us as His temple?
 3. How does the vision of Revelation 21 reshape our view of this present life?
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Hymn: O Thou Who Camest from Above

By Charles Wesley (1762)

(Tune: "Hereford" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley)

1.

O Thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

2.

There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

3.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up Thy gift in me.

4.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

 **Closing Prayer**

Almighty God,

You chose to dwell with Your people in a tabernacle, You filled the temple with glory, and You sent Your Son to live among us. We thank You that by Your Spirit You now dwell within us, and we long for the day when You will dwell with us forever in the New Jerusalem. Teach our household to love Your presence, to honor Your holiness, and to rejoice that You are not far away but near. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.