



GOD *with us*

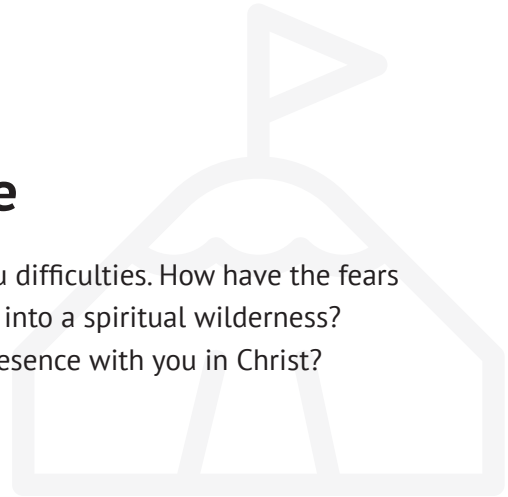
SUMMARY | From Genesis to Revelation, the thought of “God with us” is a recurring theme of the Bible. According to the apostle Paul, even those who don’t know their Creator by name or nature live, move, and have their being in Him ([Acts 17:27–28](#)). Along the way—long before showing up in Jesus—God asked His people to make a tent for Him to live among them as they traveled from the labor camps of Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey. Only by looking back can we see the immeasurable significance of what that tabernacle in the wilderness said about where and how to find “God with us”.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. After Israel’s rescue from Egypt, God continued to show His presence in the sky by a pillar of cloud and fire ([Exodus 13:21–22](#)) and on the ground by a tent like sacred sanctuary ([25:8](#)). How do these two seem to combine in [Exodus 40:33–38](#)?
2. Why do you think God gave His people so much design and other detail for the sanctuary of His presence ([Exodus 25–40](#)) without the kind of explanation given to us? (See [Hebrews 9:1–15](#); [1 Peter 1:10–12](#))
3. What can we learn from God asking His people to trust Him when it came to the unexplained details of His presence that would only become clear in the ages to come? (See [1 Corinthians 13:8–13](#); [Revelation 21:1–5](#)).
4. What had Moses already learned about the glory that filled the sanctuary on the day it was set up? ([Exodus 33:18–33](#); [40:33–34](#)).
5. In what sense can we now begin to understand that glory in the inexpressible goodness of the life and self-sacrifice of God with us in Christ in the wilderness times of our own lives? (See [Luke 9:28–31](#)).

Challenge

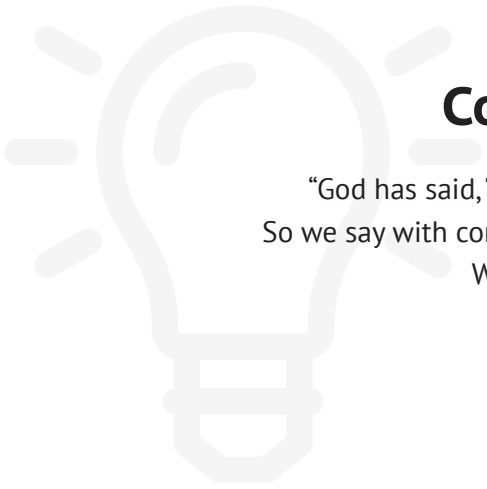
Consider a situation in your life that is causing you difficulties. How have the fears and worries of your circumstances drawn you into a spiritual wilderness?
How can you begin to rely more on God's presence with you in Christ?



Commit To Memory

“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’
So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?’”

[Hebrews 13:5-6](#)



Prayer

Father, thank You for using the story of a tent in a desolate and uninhabitable wilderness to help us see that learning to rely on Your presence with us is far more important than the material land and life flowing with milk and honey that our hearts long for. In Your Name, we pray. Amen.

