



APRIL 2010 TEACHING PLANS

THE BOOK OF EXODUS begins with God's people enslaved and abused by the Egyptians. God called a reluctant leader, Moses, to stand up to Pharaoh — and sometimes his own people — to obtain freedom for the Israelites. The events and imagery in Exodus inspire the imagination: plagues, billowing clouds of smoke and fire, a parting sea, a conquered enemy, food from heaven, water from rocks, and God's own finger, writing His commands for His people. These faith-building experiences challenged the Israelites to put their full faith in God through a holy covenant with Him. They signed on without hesitation, but the actual living out of this covenant required a complete makeover for the nation.

Enter Leviticus, which contains many of the details of God's covenant, both His promises to the Israelites and the benefits they would receive for their obedience. God's laws set them apart from every other nation on earth. Their goals as a nation were different because their God was unique and holy. His blueprint for their journey to holiness required them to erase their past and embrace the future He had for them.

In as much as Exodus and Leviticus recount God's protection of and provision for the Israelites, the books also reflect God's purpose for Christians today. He continues to call us to set ourselves apart from the world and become holy as He is holy.

WHAT'S INSIDE ... The goal of the *Collegiate* online features is to bring you a structured teaching plan with additional helps and relevant questions to equip you to lead a strong discussion-based lesson. Here's a breakdown of what's inside: Getting Started helps introduce the topic and get your students engaged in the lesson. Need to Knows provides the lesson overview and key verses of each lesson. Explore the Bible leads your students through the Scripture passages of the lesson, helping them understand the text, its historical and cultural context, and what it means to them today. Apply to Life gives you ideas for furthering the application of the Scripture, so students can take active steps to process what they're learning and how it impacts their lives. Be sure you also utilize the commentary provided (threadsmedia.com/collegiate) to help with your preparation and personal study of the lessons. As always, we're here for you. Please send us your questions, thoughts, and suggestions. Let us know what we could do better and how these teaching plans could be even more relevant to your students and your ministry.

Lindsey Bush
editor, Collegiate
lindsey.bush@threadsmedia.com

© 2010 LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention



THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 36 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "OPEN HEAVENS" BY BARLOWGIRL, FROM THE ALBUM *LOVE & WAR*.
- DOWNLOAD THE VIDEO "COMMUNION" ONLINE AT THREADSMEDIA.COM/STORE.
- READ "THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS" AND "THE EMPTY TOMB" ON PAGE 37 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE* FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND TO PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

The lesson passages are about Jesus' resurrection and subsequent appearances to His followers to encourage them. The emphasis is on the joyous hope Jesus' resurrection provides. The lesson encourages college students to testify joyfully about the hope of the resurrection.

FOCAL PASSAGES

LUKE 24:1-8,36-49



THE DAY THE WORLD CHANGED FOREVER

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Open Heavens" by BarlowGirl playing in the background as students arrive.

OPTION 1:

As you transition to this week's focus — how we contribute to the work of God in this world — consider asking your students one or two of the following questions to begin the conversation:

- What are some of the moments in your life that you would consider life-altering?
- What are some moments in American or world history that have altered the landscape of life?
- What are some of the moments in church history that have shaped the beliefs, priorities, practices, and lives of God's children throughout time?
- How would you define *hope*?

OPTION 2:

Another option might be to attend a local church or organization that has set up the Stations of the Cross. (Or if your group is really looking for a challenge, you could commission your students to set up their own Stations of the Cross for their campus or church community. Divide them up to study, brainstorm, create, and set up a particular scene. Check out page 37 in the Spring 2010 *Collegiate* magazine for more on the Stations of the Cross.) After the experience, have the group come back together and share what they saw, heard, felt, and experienced.

If there's time, and it seems appropriate for your group, read the Scripture (or portions of it) for today's lesson out loud: Luke 24:1-53.

Now begin to focus in on each specific passage and, as a group, explore the life we're afforded on account of Jesus' death.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 36 in the Spring 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a way to get involved.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 36 of the Spring 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). AN EMPTY TOMB, AN EMPTY GRAVE (LUKE 24:1-8)

READ LUKE 24:1-8.

¹On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. ⁵So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men. ⁶“He is not here, but He has been resurrected! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷saying, ‘The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?’” ⁸And they remembered His words.

Have someone read “An Empty Tomb, an Empty Grave” on page 36 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In Luke 24:1-8 we see that God’s plan didn’t end on the cross. The resurrection is one of the most challenging claims of the Christian faith. It’s also one of the key characteristics that distinguishes Christianity from every other world religion; our God couldn’t be contained by the grave. For all the questions we have about this event today, imagine what it must’ve been like for those first followers of Christ.

- What do you think the mood of the people was like during the days between Jesus’ death and this moment at the empty tomb?
- How do you think you might have responded as one of the first to encounter the empty tomb?
- Verse 8 states that the women “remembered” Jesus’ foretelling of His betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection when they found the empty tomb. What do you think this “remembering” did for the faith of these women?
- How does this story shape your faith?

2). FEAR NOT (LUKE 24:36-43)

READ LUKE 24:36-43.

³⁶And as they were saying these things, He Himself stood among them. He said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸“Why are you troubled?” He asked them. “And why do doubts arise in your hearts?” ³⁹Look at My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself! Touch Me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” ⁴⁰Having said this, He showed them His hands and feet. ⁴¹But while they still could not believe because of their joy and were amazed, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴²So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³and He took it and ate in their presence.

Have someone read “Fear Not” on page 36 of *Collegiate* magazine.

As a way of attempting to better understand the meaning behind, and significance of, Jesus’ appearance to His disciples, consider one of the following conversation starters:

- Why do you think Jesus presented Himself to His followers in this way? What ramifications would it have had on you if you were there?
- If “seeing is believing,” then how are we supposed to exhibit similar levels of faith, hope, trust, belief, and so forth, as Jesus’ disciples, who witnessed Him a few days after His death on the cross, did?
- What would your honest feelings have been had you 1) heard Jesus first predict His gruesome death and resurrection, and 2) seen it come to fruition? Would it be an overwhelming sense of fear or exhilaration, peace or unsettledness?

3). FOR ONE AND FOR ALL (LUKE 24:44-49)

READ LUKE 24:44-49.

⁴⁴Then He told them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He also said to them, “This is what is written: the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

Have someone read “For One and for All” on page 36 of *Collegiate* magazine.

For far too many today, salvation and faith begins and ends with the individual. In an age of tolerance we’re told not to interject our beliefs into the lives of others, but Jesus’ call supersedes the world’s.

- How did you first come to a knowledge of and belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior? Was there someone else involved? Where would you be if that person hadn’t been willing to share his or her faith with you?
- What does it mean to you to know that God doesn’t need you, but instead chooses you to carry out His message of hope and salvation for all? What does it feel like to shoulder that responsibility? Does it feel more like a privilege or a burden? Why?
- If as God’s children we’re called to be hospitable and charitable in our conversations and interactions with those who don’t believe what we do, then how do we live that out? What looks differently? How does better understanding this critical distinction between what the world wants and what God wants change everything?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 38 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY" BY KUTLESS, FROM THE ALBUM *STRONG TOWER*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about the Israelites' responses to survival challenges encountered during their trek in the wilderness. The emphasis is on responding to life's challenges with unwavering devotion to God. The lesson encourages college students to grow in their devotion to God even as they experience life's challenges.

FOCAL PASSAGES

EXODUS 16:2-4,11-15,18,32-34



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "All Who Are Thirsty" by Kutless playing in the background as students arrive.

As you get started, ask your students if they have any questions, comments, revelations, or experiences they'd like to share with the group regarding the previous week's study. This is a great way to tie up any loose ends, as well as to help them connect earlier readings and lessons to this week's.

OPTION 1: As you transition to this week's focus — tested devotion — consider asking your students one or two of the following questions as a way of beginning the conversation:

- How do you understand words like *devotion*, *loyalty*, and *commitment* in terms of a relationship with God, when the world that we live in seems to regularly fail to exhibit even the smallest amounts of these traits? Does it make relating to God distinct in comparison to everything else in life, or more challenging and/or unachievable?
- Humanly speaking, the marriage relationship is the one that most closely resembles our relationship with God. It's the relationship that should exhibit the highest levels of devotion, commitment, and loyalty, yet statistically one in two marriages end in divorce. What can we learn from this? How does this truth shape our understanding of rising to the challenge of both human and godly relationships?

OPTION 2: Show some clips from popular survival shows like "Man vs. Wild," "Survivor," or "The Deadliest Catch." Discuss some of the "tests" that are observed; some may come in the area of physical strength, stamina, or endurance, while others relate more to character and integrity. Have the group brainstorm what they think they might learn about themselves in such an environment.

Now focus in on Exodus 15:22—18:27. As a group, begin to explore the challenges and benefits of living wholly devoted to God.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 38 in the Spring 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a word study related to this session.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 38 of the Spring 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). BE COMMITTED (EXODUS 16:2-4)

READ EXODUS 16:2-4.

²The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!” ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. This way I will test them to see whether or not they will follow My instructions.”

Have someone read “Be Committed” on page 38 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In Exodus 16:2-4 we see that God is with us in the midst of challenges, and is faithful to provide for our needs.

Faith can be easy when life is going well, but when life gets tough we tend to respond in one of two ways:

1) We hold tighter to our faith and cling to God, or
 2) we turn our backs on God because we can’t understand why He would allow us to struggle if He really is all-powerful. College can be one of the first times students experience struggles and have to learn to deal with them without the immediate assistance of their family.

- Is it easier for you to trust in God when things are going well or in times of trouble? Why do you think that is?
- What is it about times of struggle that serve as a “test” of our faith?

ASK SOMEONE TO READ JAMES 1:2-4.

²Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

- How do you understand James 1:2-4 as it compares to struggles that test your faith? Why would James encourage you to “consider it a great joy” when you face struggles? How does this shape your understanding of struggling? How does it shape your image of God?

If times of struggle can be used by God to strengthen and deepen our faith, they can also be times of great temptation.

- Why is it that sometimes we choose “escapes” during difficult times that don’t move us closer to God but cause us to struggle even more? Have we become too conditioned to seek “escapes” instead of God? If so, why?

2). BE CONFIDENT (EXODUS 16:11-15,18)

READ EXODUS 16:11-15,18.

¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them: At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.” ¹³So at evening quail came and covered the camp. In the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew evaporated, there on the desert surface were fine flakes, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they asked one another, “What is it?” because they didn’t know what it was. Moses told them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.”

.....
¹⁸When they measured it by quarts, the person who gathered a lot had no surplus, and the person who

gathered a little had no shortage. Each gathered as much as he needed to eat.

Have someone read “Be Confident” on page 38 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Being “confident” in God is another way of describing faith. Faith includes elements of trust, hope, and belief that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do.

- Are you confident that God knows your needs? Do you think He cares about you? Do you trust that He can provide for you in ways only He can?
- As a Christian, how do you distinguish between confidence in God and self-confidence? Is it bad to have self-confidence as a child of God? If not, what does it look like? How is it different from the self-confidence exhibited by the world?
- How different would your life look if you lived in confidence, not fear? Or if you weren’t concerned about what others think of you, but only what God thinks? Or what if you weren’t concerned about achieving at all costs, but trusted in God to work through your best efforts? If your identity were in God and God alone?

3). SHARE WITH OTHERS (EXODUS 16:32-34)

READ EXODUS 16:32-34.

³²Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Two quarts of it are to be preserved throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread I fed you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” ³³Moses told Aaron, “Take a container and put two quarts of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be preserved throughout your generations.” ³⁴As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron placed it before the testimony to be preserved.

Have someone read “Share with Others” on page 39 of *Collegiate* magazine.

It would seem that we don’t very well know how to talk about the activity of God in our lives with others. Engage in a conversation that might help students to better be able to encourage others by sharing about the activity and provision of God in their own lives.

- Is it hard for you to share with others about God’s activity in your life? Why or why not?
- What do you find to be most difficult to talk about or put into words? (Some ideas might be: a) what God has done in your life, or b) not knowing what others will think or how they’ll respond to what you say?
- As you read these verses, you might find yourself wondering why what was created wasn’t considered an idol. What do you think? What’s the difference between an idol (something that’s wrongly worshiped) and a memorial (something that serves to commemorate something)?
- Is it possible for a memorial (like the one described in this passage) to become an idol? How can you avoid such things in your life?

Possible group activity:

Read “The Parable of the Talents” (Matthew 25:14-30) and discuss what insight this passage offers us regarding how we share the experiences or blessings that God provides for us.

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 40 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "ALWAYS ENOUGH" BY CASTING CROWNS, FROM THE ALBUM *UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD HEARS*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson discusses the Ten Commandments that were to govern the Israelites' actions toward the Lord and one another. The emphasis is on the Lord's expectations for relating rightly to Him and others. The lesson encourages college students to fulfill divine expectations for relating rightly to the Lord and others.

FOCAL PASSAGES EXODUS 20:1-17



WHAT GOOD CHARACTER IS MADE OF

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Always Enough" by Casting Crowns playing in the background as students arrive.

As you transition to this week's focus — what good character is made of — ask your students one or two of the following questions as a way of beginning the conversation:

- How do you view laws? How about law enforcement? What are the images that come to mind when we talk of law and law enforcement? Why? What do you think the purpose of law is? How might you distinguish the difference (and intention) of man's law and God's law?
- What are some of the laws you find easier to break? Why? What are some of the laws that are deemed the worst to break? Why is this? How do you know that these are deemed worst? Do you think God believes breaking some laws (or committing some sins) are more of an offense than others? Why or why not?

If there's time, and it seems appropriate for your group, read the Scripture (or portions of it) for today's lesson out loud as a group: Exodus 20:1-17.

Now begin to focus in on each specific passage and, as a group, explore the significance of God's law and a covenant relationship.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 40 in the Spring 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a quote and word study related to this session.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 40 of the Spring 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). GOD ALONE (EXODUS 20:1-6)

READ EXODUS 20:1-6.

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

³Do not have other gods besides Me.

⁴Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁵You must not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the fathers' sin, to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commands.

Have someone read “God Alone” on page 40 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In Exodus 20:1-6 God gives us His first two commands that serve to shape how we relate to Him. So how we understand them, and how they apply to our lives today, is incredibly important.

Some questions that might help to guide some personal reflection and engaged conversation might be:

- What do you understand worship to be? What about it is for God? What about it is for us?
- What forms of worship have you seen in churches that have raised questions in your mind about some of our worship practices?
- Are there forms of “worship” in the world that have nothing to do with God? If so, what are they? What do they look like? Why do they occur?

In these first two commands, God tells us, His children, to worship no other gods and no idols.

- Why do you think God started with these two commandments? What do you think He was trying to establish? What does it mean that God is a “jealous” God (v. 5)? How does this shape your walk with Him?

Possible group activity:

Fast-forward to the life and kingship of Solomon. He was known as the wisest man to have ever lived at that point in time because of how God provided for him. It was under Solomon’s reign that Israel reached its pinnacle as an empire; but the empire also began its downward spiral toward a divided kingdom that would eventually end in exile. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and spend some time dissecting how we see the words of Exodus 20:1-6 coming to fruition.

2). NO DISRESPECT (EXODUS 20:7-11)

READ EXODUS 20:7-11.

⁷Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will punish anyone who misuses His name.

⁸Remember to dedicate the Sabbath day: ⁹You are to labor six days and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the foreigner who is within your gates. ¹¹For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

Have someone read “No Disrespect” on page 40 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- God wants to be respected; have you ever thought about that? What do you think that means? Is it the same as showing others respect in your human relationships?

- What does it mean to you to have the respect of others?
- Does it surprise you that respect would define two of the four Commandments we’re given in regard to our relationship with God? Why?
- What’s significant about God’s name? What does it mean to call on His name?
- What does it mean to “misuse” God’s name? Why do some people do this? Why do you think it ever became popular to misuse the name of God as a way of expressing one’s self? Do you do it? If not, why?
- What do you think, feel, or do when you hear someone else misuse the name of God? Why?
- What do you understand the Sabbath to be about? If it’s described as “the Lord’s day,” then how do you think we should spend it?
- How does “resting” show God respect?
- What does a typical Sunday look like for you? Do you practice Sabbath? Why or why not? Do you believe that this “law” still applies to believers today? Why or why not?
- What might your life (and relationship with God) look like if you began to take the command more seriously?

3). TREAT PEOPLE LIKE THEY MATTER ... BECAUSE THEY DO! (EXODUS 20:12-17)

READ EXODUS 20:12-17.

¹²Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³Do not murder. ¹⁴Do not commit adultery. ¹⁵Do not steal. ¹⁶Do not give false testimony against your neighbor. ¹⁷Do not covet your neighbor’s house. Do not



covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Have someone read “Treat People Like They Matter ... Because They Do!” on page 40 of *Collegiate* magazine.

The first four Commandments have to do with our relationship with God, the final six have to do with our relationships with others. God, in establishing His covenant relationship with humans, chose to focus six of His 10 covenant stipulations on human-to-human relations. So we can actually be “out of covenant” with God if we’re not relating rightly with other humans.

- **Why do you think God chose to focus on the parent-child relationship in the first of His laws pertaining to human-human relationships? What does this tell you about how God views this particular human relationship in regard to others?**
- **Why do you think the parent-child relationship is such a challenging one?**
- **Where does your relationship with your parents currently stand? How do you think that standing is helping (or hurting) your relationship with God and your current spiritual formation?**
- **What do laws six through 10 reveal to you about God? What do they reveal to you about what He knows of humanity?**
- **Why do you think God put these laws into place for His creation?**
- **Do you find it harder to adhere to the laws that pertain to your relationship with God or with other people? Why?**

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 42 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "OPEN HANDS" BY MATT PAPA, FROM THE ALBUM *YOUR KINGDOM COME*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson covers the design of the tabernacle and Israel's worship practices. The emphasis is on deepening one's relationship with God through congregational worship. The lesson encourages college students to participate regularly and meaningfully in congregational worship.

FOCAL PASSAGES

EXODUS 25:8-9,17-22; 29:38-46



A MEETING WITH GOD

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Open Hands" by Matt Papa playing in the background as students arrive.

OPTION 1: As you get started, ask your students if they have any questions, comments, revelations, or experiences they'd like to share with the group regarding the previous week's study. This is a great way to tie up any loose ends, as well as help them connect earlier readings and sessions to this week's.

As you transition to this week's focus — worship — ask your students one or two of the following questions as a way of beginning the conversation:

- What do you understand worship to be? Why do you do it? Who's it for? Has it become routine for you? Is that a good thing or a bad thing?
- How has "church life" changed for you since you started college? Do you go because you want to or because your parents expect you to? Do you attend a church like the one you grew up in (if you grew up going to church)? Why or why not?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 42 in the Spring 2010 issue of *Collegiate* magazine for a quote and suggested Bible study related to this session.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 42 of the Spring 2010 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). DON'T YOU WORRY, HE'LL BE THERE (EXODUS 25:8-9)

READ EXODUS 25:8-9.

⁸“They are to make a sanctuary for Me so that I may dwell among them. ⁹You must make it according to all that I show you—the design of the tabernacle as well as the design of all its furnishings.”

Have someone read “Don’t You Worry, He’ll be There” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In Exodus 25:8-9, God commissioned Moses and the Israelites to create a place in their midst in which He could dwell. His desire was to be near His people, and He had some pretty specific plans in mind.

- Why do you think God desired a “dwelling place” among His people? Why do you think He “needed” a place in which to dwell? What does it mean to hear that God desires to be near His children? How does this fit with your current understanding or image of God? Does this make Him more tender and caring, less aloof and cold? Why or why not?

God makes it very clear that the construction and furnishing of His tabernacle would have to follow His specifications perfectly.

- Why do you think this is? What insight to the character of God does this provide you? Should this speak to us about our church structures today? Why or why not?

Possible group activity:

Have your group members talk about some of the churches they’ve attended. Ask them to share specifically about the differences they’ve observed in worship spaces. What’s their take on the differences they’ve observed, the “feel” within the different spaces, and so forth?

2). LISTEN UP! (EXODUS 25:17-22)

READ EXODUS 25:17-22.

¹⁷Make a mercy seat of pure gold, 45 inches long and 27 inches wide. ¹⁸Make two cherubim of gold; make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end. Make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. ²⁰The cherubim are to have wings spread out above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and are to face one another. The faces of the cherubim should be toward the mercy seat. ²¹Set the mercy seat on top of the ark and put the testimony that I will give you into the ark. ²²I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

Have someone read “Listen Up!” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What does it mean to you that you have a God who desires to communicate with you? If this was true back in the days of Moses, do you think it’s still true today?
- Do you think God desires to communicate with us corporately during times of worship? Individually? How might this change your approach to worship and/or prayer?
- Do you tend to be more of a giver or receiver in worship? Do you see worship as your opportunity to “give back” to God or more so to “receive” from God whatever He has for you?
- How does this shape your heart and mind as you enter into times of worship?
- Are there any adjustments on your part that need to be made to allow for a more full worship experience?

3). GIVE IT UP (EXODUS 29:38-42)

READ EXODUS 29:38-42.

³⁸“This is what you are to offer regularly on the altar every day: two year-old lambs. ³⁹In the morning offer one lamb, and at twilight offer the other lamb. ⁴⁰With the first lamb offer two quarts of fine flour mixed with one quart of crushed olive oil, and a drink offering of one quart of wine. ⁴¹You are to offer the second lamb at twilight. Offer a grain offering and a drink offering with it, like the one in the morning, as a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD. ⁴²This will be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance to the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you.

Have someone read “Give It Up” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

College students don’t often feel they have anything to give, yet God calls one and all to offer their “first fruits” to Him as a sacrificial offering.

- What’s your initial response when you hear someone talk about tithing or giving to the church? Why do you respond in that way?
- What makes you have the kind of response to giving that you currently do? Do you think this needs to change? What might God be asking you to give to Him and His church? Is giving to a charity the same as giving to the church? Why or why not?
- What kind of giving patterns do you want to establish when you’re “all grown up”? What kinds of giving do you believe God is calling you to right now, as a college student? How do you think the patterns, habits, and attitudes you create now will shape your future?

4). A STANDING “O” (EXODUS 29:43-46)

READ EXODUS 29:43-46.

⁴³I will also meet with the Israelites there, and that place will be consecrated by My glory. ⁴⁴I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve Me as priests. ⁴⁵I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. ⁴⁶And they will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

Have someone read “A Standing ‘O’” on page 43 of *Collegiate* magazine.

With all of the imperfections we’ve seen in recent years in local churches and church leaders, there has been a growing discontentment with the church. But if God calls us to be in relationship with Him and with each other, we’re seriously missing out on the blessing of being part of the body of believers.

- Would you consider yourself: a) a member of a local church, b) a regular attendee of a local church, c) a church-hopper, d) a once-in-a-while, or f) not a fan of the local church? Why is that? Has there been a change in how you would have answered this question five years ago? If so, what happened to prompt your change?
- What message do you think this communicates to God? To other believers who watch you?
- There are many college students today who believe their worship is sufficient if they listen to podcasts and the latest worship music, and never engage with a larger body of worshipers. What do you think about this? What’s behind this mentality? What might they be missing?

