

in all things

## PRE-GATHERING BIBLE STUDY #4

# GOD DWELLS WITH HIS PEOPLE IN THE STORY OF ALL THINGS

## GOALS:

1. This study will show participants how God uses the temple and His dwelling to display His presence as He reveals His character repeatedly in the Bible. (We call repeating big ideas like these, “Biblical Themes.”)
2. Through reading and re-reading the Scriptures, this study will help participants see God’s desire to be present with His creation and how He continues to dwell with His people in all things.

## LESSON

What do you think about God being always present? Is it comforting, scary, hopeful, etc.? Why?

Our icon for this biblical theme is a temple/God’s presence. As you read these next stories, draw an image of a temple to remind you of how God Himself is present with His people.



Read **Exodus 40:34-38**.

1. Whenever the cloud was over the tent of meeting, the people could not enter it. Why do you think that is?
2. The cloud covered the tabernacle through the day and the fire through the night, which was the glory of Yahweh. What does this say about God’s character towards the Israelites?

Read **2 Samuel 7:1-17**.

1. What did David want to do for God?
2. What was God’s response? What does Yahweh promise to David and his family?
3. How does this passage relate to the reading from Exodus? Do you think this passage reflects the same characteristics of God? How?

Read **John 1:1-16**.

1. Who is the Word? What can we know about this “Word” from these passages?
2. What does it mean that “the Word dwelt among us” (v. 14)?



3. How does this verse connect with the other passages we read?
4. How do we experience Christ's presence today?

Let's take what we just learned about put it into practice!

In your group, read the verses below and make a list of where you see God's temple/presence and how it is being shown:

- **Isaiah 6:1-7**
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
- **Matthew 26:26-29**
- **Psalms 5:7-12**
- **Colossians 1:19-20**

## CALL TO ACTION

1. Between now and the next Pre-Gathering Bible Study you do, read Genesis 32 at least twice. While you're reading, think about the questions you used during the study:
  - a. Where in the story do you see the Biblical theme of God's dwelling?
  - b. What does this story reveal about God's character?

