



# WINDWELL

7-DAYS IN GOD'S DWELLING PLACES

Dwell with God each day for a week.  
Discover God who is with you.  
Find yourself in God's dwelling places.  
Enjoy God being with you.



Day 1 – Eden

Day 2 – Pillar

Day 3 – Tent

Day 4 – Immanuel

Day 5 – Body

Day 6 – Zion

Day 7 – Rest



 **READ**  **REREAD**

 **BIG IDEA**

 **DWELL**

 **DIG DEEPER**



"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's **dwelling place** is now among the people, and **he will dwell with them**. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

– Revelation 21:3-4





## Acknowledgment

While God is present it may not feel like it. For various reasons, the Presence of God can seem theologically vague or dissonant, personally disconnected or distant, even spiritually unreal or riddled with doubt.

The hope for this study is that you come to find space in your soul like King David to sing out, "in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11) While there isn't a "You Are Here" pin in Psalm 16, David hands you a treasure map for life, including your leadership and mission. The map is marked along the way by God's presence.

May this study be like a travelogue through the vistas of Scriptures drawing you to the well worn path into the beautiful and fully satisfying dwelling places of God who is always with you.



# Introduction

God's presence and dwelling place among mankind has always been a thing. It is deeply embedded into who He is, His mission, and how he connects with His creation. God's presence is stitched into the biblical narrative so that it is clearly part of His story.

Eden was the dwelling place of God, and God commissioned Adam and Eve to expand the boundaries of that dwelling place to fill the earth (Genesis 1:28). While God's original call seemed to be thwarted by sin, God continues to establish his dwelling place in different forms which will shown throughout this devotional.

God continued to establish his dwelling place among the patriarchs until the building of the tabernacle and temple. After Solomon's temple was destroyed, the prophets anticipate the coming of a new and expanding temple, and these prophecies would be fulfilled in Jesus and the church. The church as the dwelling place of God would expand until one day it filled the entire heaven and earth—the entire cosmos would become the dwelling place of God.

The mission of God did not begin with the Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, but mission is God's heartbeat from Genesis 1 until the new heaven and earth become the dwelling place of God in Revelation 21-22. This grand picture of the whole earth filled with God's presence fulfills God's original intention from the sanctuary of Eden. So that is where we begin.



DAY 1

**EDEN**



"All lasting transformation begins by spending time in God's **presence**."  
— Brother Lawrence

"God's **presence** is everywhere around us. God is able to penetrate intertwine himself within the fibers of the human self in such a way that those who are enveloped in His loving companionship will never be alone."  
— Dallas Willard

"Humans were tasked to make the whole world like Eden, a place where God's goodness was known and his **presence** experienced."  
— Michael S. Heiser





**GENESIS 2:8-15.** Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

**Additionally Read:** Isaiah 51:3, Ezekiel 36:35



Find a place to sit. Maybe by a tree or stream. Become aware of God's loving presence and read the Scripture again...

**What from God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read. Yield yourself to God and enjoy his presence.



## 💡 BIG IDEA

Eden had everything anyone could have ever wanted. It had a flowing river, a lush garden planned and planted by God, and delicious and abundant fruit ripe for the picking. It was beyond beautiful. Eden was the picture of peace and life. It isn't too much to say that it was perfect. In Hebrew, it meant "pleasure" or "delight."

What made Eden most delightful was that God was there. Eden was the locus of God's presence, provision, and protection. It wasn't just a garden; it was the very first dwelling place of God on Earth. It was a paradise, a sanctuary, a place of worship, and a natural temple where heaven met earth.

God created Adam and Eve and placed them within Eden, which became their home. God was no stranger, as "God himself walked in the garden in the cool of the day..." (Genesis 3:8). God and man were freely and wholly woven in relationship. God walked with men and talked with them as a friend and as a Father.

There was nothing between them. Until they disobeyed and listened to another voice other than the One who meant to protect them. As a consequence, God expelled them from Eden. It was a

consequence that had a grave affect that untethered the relationship between God and man.

One could be tempted to believe that God stayed within the garden and kicked the first couple to the curb, but that isn't true. Though Adam and Eve were forced from the Garden, God would never leave them. Ever since mankind has been longing to get back to Eden to dwell in God's presence.

As we dwell with God, we taste Eden. Eden isn't a place we want to go and stay, but it is also a place we want to go and invite others to come along with us.

"When our resources run dry, we drink more fully and deeply from the abundance of life found in God's presence. Our God gives joy and strength to endure! The life that we find in God's presence is more than enough to overcome every challenge for the mission God has placed before us. However, life must clearly flow from God's presence into the needs of the nations, and the needs of the nations must drive us to drink more fully from the life found in God's presence." — Beale, G. K.; Kim, Mitchell. *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth* (p. 21).





## DWELLING IN THE GARDEN

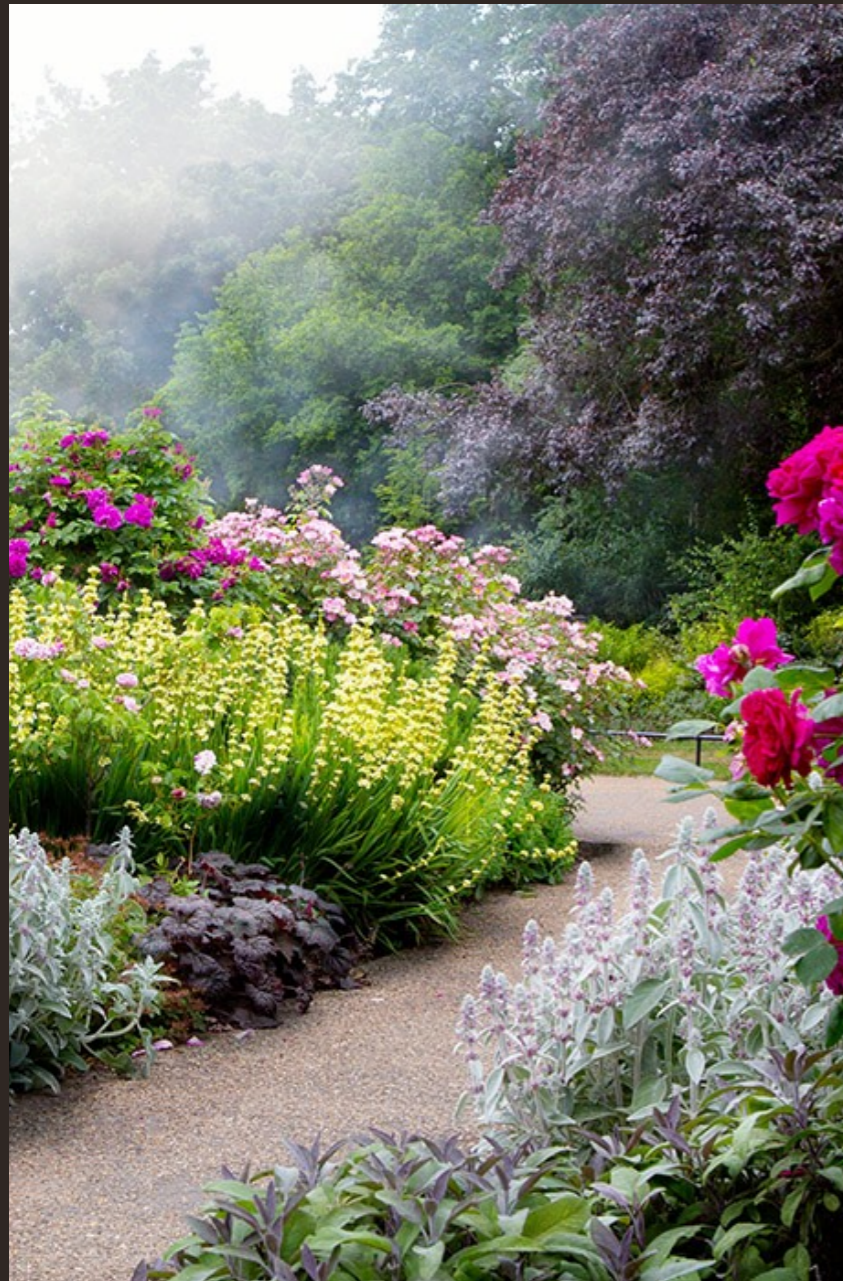
What was it like in Eden? Can you imagine the smells? Feel the sun? Taste the fruit? Hear the voice and presence of God? **Reflect for a few moments on this place. Sit with the Lord. Enjoy being present together. Write down what comes to mind.**

**"We all long for Eden, and we are constantly glimpsing it. Our whole nature, at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most humane, is still soaked with a sense of exile."**

– J.R.R. Tolkien, *letters*



## WHAT IS YOUR IMAGE OF EDEN?



**How is a garden a fitting place for God's dwelling place?**



**How does a garden cause you to rest and be with God?**



**What pleasure has God created for you to enjoy in a garden?**





## DIG DEEPER

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

How is the presence of God a central goal in God's redemptive mission and the agent by which the Lord accomplishes his mission? How is the mission of Eden still our mission today?

How does God's presence inform and empower mission leaders? What are the marks of a mission leader who dwells in the presence of God?

**BOOK :** God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale (chapter 1)

**BOOK :** The Presence of God, Ryan Lister (chapters 1-3)

**PODCAST :** The Epic of Eden, The BEMA Podcast

**ARTICLE :** What was Eden Like?



DAY 2

# PILLAR



One great law for all who would be truly led by God's **Pillar** of cloud and fire, is to take no step at the bidding of self-will or without the clear moving of the heavenly Guide. Though the direction be new and the way seem beset with difficulty, there is never any risk, provided we are only led of God. Each new advance needs separate and special authority from Him, and yesterday's guidance is not sufficient for today." — Jonathan Edwards

I am coming quickly. Hold on firmly to what you have, so that no one takes your crown. Whoever overcomes, I will make him a **pillar** in the sanctuary of my God, and he will absolutely not go out from there anymore. — Revelation 3:11-12



## 02 PILLAR



**Exodus 13: 21-22.** "By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."

**Additionally Read:** Numbers 9:15-23



If possible, light a candle. Watch the flame flicker. Become aware of God's guiding presence and read the Scripture again...

**What in God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read...yield yourself to God and enjoy his presence.



### BIG IDEA

Yahweh is God-with-his people. When it comes to His presence, God takes the initiative. One of the greatest realities of God's presence is the way it leads and guides us.

Outside of the garden, people longed to know that God was still present among them. His voice in the garden was long forgotten and infrequent. The next time that God would show a sign of His presence was when God led his people from bondage in Egypt to the Wilderness. In the wilderness, the people had nothing except what God provided for them. They left the only life they had ever known. With that in mind, God had to show Himself to them.

God would lead and guide his people with a pillar of fire by day and a pillar of cloud by day. Wherever they were in the wilderness, they could see the pillar at all times. The wilderness could be pretty dark at night, other than the light of the moon, but God's presence being pillar-shaped would offer plenty of continual light, a constant reminder of His presence, care, and leadership.

The people had no GPS or directional awareness in the wilderness. They were lost unless the Lord showed them the way. And He did. Whenever the pillar

moved the people would move. Whenever the pillar stopped the people would stop.

God's presence in the pillar served as a tangible sign for His people of divine guidance, protection, and assurance.

God's presence is often obscured by the elements of fire and cloud.\* When God's presence is made visible, whether through fire, cloud, or some other manifestation, it means there was a human encounter with the transcendent God.

The arrival of the *Shekinah* glory testifies that the Lord has entered His earthly dwelling place to be present with His people (e.g., Exodus 40:34-38; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3)—and yet its description is one of nearness and separation. His presence combines awe and terror and simultaneously invites approach and distance.

God is present and active in the way He leads and guides His people, even if the path seems unclear or unconventional. Two whole generations enjoyed and were comforted by visibly seeing and experiencing God within a vast wilderness.

\* cf. Genesis 15:17; Exodus. 13:21-22; Deuteronomy 1:33; 4:11-12, 24; 1 Kings 8:10-12; Ezekiel 1:27; Hebrews 12:29; Revelation 4:5



# ▲ DWELL

### **DWELL IN THE WILDERNESS.**

What would it have been like in the wilderness? Can you imagine the dust and vastness? The sun and dryness? The voice and presence of God in the pillar?

**Reflect for a few moments on these questions. Write down what comes to mind.**

**"And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."**

– Isaiah 58:11



## 02 PILLAR

# BEING LEAD BY GOD INTO THE WILDERNESS



**How is the wilderness a fitting place for God to dwell with His people?**



**How would the wilderness cause you to depend on God?**



**How have you met the Lord in the wilderness?**





# DIG DEEPER

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

How does God continue to lead and guide us today into his his presence and global mission? What does it look like to lead and guide others into the presence of God?

How does God make us His holy pillars and lights wherever we are? How visible is God's presence in your leadership to those you serve or are called to protect? How do you respond when called to lead in dark, uncertain, or challenging times?

**BOOK :** God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale (chapter 4)

**BOOK :** The Presence of God, Ryan Lister (chapters 2)

**ARTICLE :** A Walk in the Wilderness, 30-Day Devotional for Desert Dwellers



DAY 3

# TENT



The greatest fact of the tabernacle was that Jehovah was there; a Presence was waiting within the veil. Similarly the Presence of God is the central fact of Christianity. At the heart of the Christian message is God Himself waiting for His redeemed children to push in to conscious awareness of His Presence.

— A.W. Tozer

The Tabernacle shows us that God comes to us not on the basis of our merit but through sacrifice — which, ultimately, is fulfilled in Christ. Grace was there in the wilderness, long before the cross.

— Timothy Keller



## READ

**Exodus 25:8-9, 29:45-46** “And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.”

“I will dwell among the people of Israel and be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them”

**Additionally Read:** Exodus 25:8, cf. Gen. 21:22; Ex. 3:12; Deut. 2:7; Josh. 1:5; Ps. 46:7, 11; Isa. 41:10).

## REREAD

If possible, burn some incense. See the smoke rise. Become aware of God's loving presence and read the Scripture again...

**What in God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read...yield yourself to God and enjoy his presence.



## BIG IDEA

In the Exodus story, there are two central elements to God's redemptive presence—removal and placement. God removed His people from the harsh realities of Egypt and placed them in the wilderness to journey with them to the promised land. Along the way, God showed His presence to them. Wonderfully, He entered history to bring His people to Himself.

As God led and guided his people with a pillar, He drew up a blueprint for His people to build a tent called the tabernacle or *Mishkan*, which comes from the Hebrew word meaning "to dwell." God had already permanently dwelt among His people, but the tent would symbolize that right before their eyes. It would also be a template for a more permanent temple that would be built in the future.

The tabernacle became a mobile marker to where God was among His people. God would dwell within the tent's central room behind a curtain. That room was called the Holy of Holies. Within that room, there were special and symbolic furnishings, which included the ark of the covenant. Above the ark is where the Spirit of God dwelt.

This tent at the center of Israel's camp was a constant reminder that God was with his people to care for,

rule, define, and redeem them. It also serves as a future pointer to His forever presence with all His people.

The tabernacle's design revealed and showcased a unique tension. God's holiness required separation. This is why the tabernacle was arranged the way it was. The sanctuary was divided into the three concentric sections of the outer court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. Only in the Most Holy Place do we find God's presence. This is a room set apart from the rest of the tabernacle by a thick veil, a room never to be entered except once a year on the Day of Atonement, and then only by the high priest after his purification. God engineered the tent and its rooms to express both his nearness to redeem and the distance of his eschatological presence. The tabernacle, therefore, provides a way for God to be with sinners for their redemption while simultaneously protecting sinners from God's holiness.

The tent was a picture of big things yet to come, and also exemplified God's mission for His people. It would not remain in one place, but it was meant to expand and fill the earth so that all humanity might worship the glory of God. In this manner, the tabernacle provided not only the means for our worship and showcasing His presence, but it was the impetus for the people's mission as a light to the nations.





Sit in the holy place. What would it have been like to be in the Holy of Holies? What do you see? Can you imagine the smells? Can you sense the presence of God? **Reflect for a few moments on these questions. Write down what comes to mind.**

**“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”**

– Revelation 21:3



**WHAT WOULD THE  
VISIBILITY OF THE  
TABERNACLE HAVE  
BEEN LIKE FOR  
GOD'S PEOPLE IN  
THE WILDERNESS?**





## DIG DEEPER

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

How does the design and purpose of the Tabernacle reflect God's desire to dwell among His people? What lessons can I learn from the Holy of Holies about intimacy with God as a leader?

How is worship expressed in your mission work, and does it mirror the heart of the Tabernacle? How does the Tent challenge you to think about God's presence going with you into all the world? In what ways are we making the Gospel visible and tangible, like the Tabernacle did in the wilderness?

**BOOK :** God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale (chapter 4)

**BOOK :** The Presence of God, Ryan Lister (chapters 7)

**VIDEO SERIES :** The Royal Priesthood (Bible Project)

**ARTICLE :**



DAY 4

**IMMANUEL**



[Jesus] is the glory of God, the very Shekinah itself, tabernacling among men. The tangible physicalness of this form of the divine presence should not be overlooked. During those years men could see his glory. They could witness with amazement His mighty acts. They could literally hear Him expound the ethics of His Kingdom. God was on earth, experiencing the human condition at first hand and engaging the Enemy at close quarters. He was present in our poverty, our suffering and our temptation until the last moments of supreme paradox when He dwelt in the anathema.

– Donald Macleod, *Behold Your God*

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.

– Charles Spurgeon



## READ

**John 1:1-5.** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**Additionally Read:** Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25

## REREAD

Become aware of God's loving presence and read again...

**What in God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read...yield to God and enjoy his presence.



### 💡 BIG IDEA

God is with us. This has always been a marker of God, from the garden to the wilderness. He is a God who is with His People.

When Jesus was born He was called by a unique name, which fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet Isaiah said, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him *Immanuel*" (which means "God with us").\*

The apostle John said that in Jesus was the Word who became flesh and tabernacled among us. Paul said that the fullness of deity dwelt in Jesus in human form. Jesus said to Philip that the one who had seen him, Jesus, had seen the Father.

The presence of God which once was mediated by fire, cloud, and smoke, now stood face-to-face with His people. The pillar and tabernacle always pointed to something greater, to Someone greater, for ultimately God's true temple was Jesus Christ. Jesus planned to come and destroy the temple and to focus the attention of God's presence on Him, His death, and His resurrection (John 2:18-22). He aimed to turn attention from a building to a Person. Jesus was now the new temple.\*\*

Jesus would become the Cornerstone that the people would reject (Matthew 21:42-44). In this new temple of Christ, the deity dwells in man and among men for redemption and reconciliation (Colossians 2:9). The amazing beauty of this is that God came among us, as one of us, to save us.

It is no coincidence that Jesus is right in the middle of this study. He is the climatic center. Jesus, God Himself, with skin on walked among His people. All along God had the plan to step into His creation, dwell among His people, show them the heart of God, and reveal His redeeming plan. You couldn't be more present with God than with Jesus.

\* cf. Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14

\*\* cf. John 4:14-23; Hebrews 10:19-22; Matthew 12:6



### DWELL

Walk with Jesus. What would that have been like to be with Jesus when He walked among us? What would you want to ask His? Can you hear His voice and presence? **Reflect for a few moments on these questions. Write down what comes to mind.**



## 04 IMMANUEL

### WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE WALKING WITH JESUS?



**How has Jesus interceded for you?**



**How has Jesus stood with you in the storm?**



**How has Jesus provided for you?**





## DIG DEEPER

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

Where have I experienced Jesus as *Immanuel*—most clearly in the field and leadership journey?

How can I lead others from a posture of “God with us” more than “us for God”? In what ways does my leadership reflect Jesus’ incarnational approach—entering into the lives, struggles, and stories of those I serve?

What would change in our mission strategy if we believed Jesus is *already* present in every culture, every village, and every heart?

**BOOK :** God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale (chapter 6)

**BOOK :** The Presence of God, Ryan Lister (chapters 5 and 9)

**PODCAST :** God with Us (Bible Project)

**CLASS :** Jesus, Isaiah, and Immanuel



## I AM WITH YOU

The Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father; Do not be afraid, for **I am with you**. I will bless and favor you, and multiply your descendants, For the sake of My servant Abraham." – Genesis 26:24

Behold, **I am with you** and will keep [careful watch over you and guard] you wherever you may go, and I will bring you back to this [promised] land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." – Genesis 28:15

And he said, "Because **I am with you**, and this [will be] the sign for you that I myself have sent you: When you bring the people out from Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain." – Exodus 3:12

The Lord told Joshua, "This very day I will begin to honor you before all Israel so they will know that **I am with you** just as I was with Moses. – Joshua 3:7

And his armor bearer said to him, "Do everything that is in your heart (mind); here **I am with you** in whatever you think [best]." – 1 Samuel 14:7

'Do not fear [anything], for **I am with you**; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you; I will certainly take hold of you with My righteous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation].' – Isaiah 41:10

When you pass through the waters, **I am with you**; when you pass through the streams, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not harm you. – Isaiah 43:2

"Do not fear, for **I am with you**; I will bring your offspring from the east [where they are scattered], And gather you from the west. – Isaiah 43:5

"Do not be afraid of them [or their hostile faces], For **I am with you** [always] to protect you and deliver you," says the Lord. – Jeremiah 1:8

They will fight against you, but they will not [ultimately] prevail over you, for **I am with you** [always] to protect you and deliver you," says the Lord. – Jeremiah 1:19

"And I will make you to this people A fortified wall of bronze; They will fight against you, But they will not prevail over you, For **I am with you** [always] to save you And protect you," says the Lord. – Jeremiah 15:20

'For **I am with you**,' says the Lord, 'to save you; For I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, But I will not destroy you completely. But I will judge and discipline you fairly And will by no means regard you as guiltless and leave you unpunished.' – Jeremiah 30:11



Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith Jehovah: for **I am with you** to save you, and to deliver you from his hand. — Jeremiah 42:11

“Do not fear, O Jacob My servant,” says the Lord,” For **I am with you**. For I will make a full and complete end of all the nations To which I have driven you; Yet I will not make a full end of you. But I will discipline and correct you appropriately And by no means will I declare you guiltless or leave you unpunished. — Jeremiah 46:28

Then spake Haggai Jehovah's messenger in Jehovah's message unto the people, saying, **I am with you**, saith Jehovah. — Haggai 1:13

Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith Jehovah; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith Jehovah, and work: for **I am with you**, saith Jehovah of hosts, — Haggai 2:4

and do according to the word - for **I am with you**, sayeth the LORD of Hosts, like as I agreed with you when ye came out of the land of Egypt: and my spirit shall be among you, fear ye not. — Haggai 2:5

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you** alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. — Matthew 28:20

For which is greater, he that reclines, or he that serves? Is not he that reclines? But **I am with you** as he that serves. — Luke 22:27

Jesus therefore said, Yet a little while **I am with you**, and I go to him that has sent me. — John 7:33

Little children, yet a little while **I am with you**. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. — John 13:33

When that day comes you will know that I am in union with my Father and you are with me and **I am with you**. — John 14:20

this is what I have to tell you, for the little time that **I am with you**. — John 14:25

Let them all be one. Just as you, Father, are in union with me and **I am with you**, let them be in union with us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. — John 17:21

for **I am with you**, and no one will attack you in order to hurt you, because I have many people in this city. — Acts 18:10

When you gather together in the name of our Lord Jesus, and **I am with you** in spirit, along with the power of our Lord Jesus, — 1 Corinthians 5:4



DAY 5

# BODY



Nothing in or of this world measures up to the simple pleasure of experiencing the presence of God. — A.W Tozer

God's presence isn't a performance, it's a place of holiness. — Unknown

The flesh feeds on the body and blood of Christ that the soul likewise may be filled with God. — Tertullian

The mark of the true church is an expanding witness to the presence of God. — G.K. Beale



## READ

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17.** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20.** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**Ephesians 2:21-22.** In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**Additionally Read:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:1-5; Ephesians 4:2-6

## REREAD

Consider your body. Hands. Feet. Chest. Become aware of God's loving presence and read again...

**What in God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read...yield yourself to God and enjoy his presence.



## 💡 BIG IDEA

In the wilderness, God's presence dwelled in a mobile tabernacle and later a temple. These sacred spaces were central to the people's worship and identity. But Jesus introduced something radically new: once the temple veil was torn, God's presence would no longer be confined to a building.

Before Jesus died and was resurrected, He promised to send a Helper who would indwell His followers. The Helper would be Himself—His Spirit. As individuals, we are a temple of the Holy Spirit, but collectively, as the Body of Christ, we are God's home on earth—a place where His Spirit lives, moves, and ministers.

The church is not the structure, not the programs, but the people. We are called "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5), being built into a spiritual house. Just as the pillar of cloud and fire were a type of foreshadowing of the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance in the lives of believers, the church is called the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

This reality should awaken awe and action in us. If God dwells within us, then the way we love one another, pursue unity and live out holiness deeply matters. The church is not just a gathering place; it is the dwelling

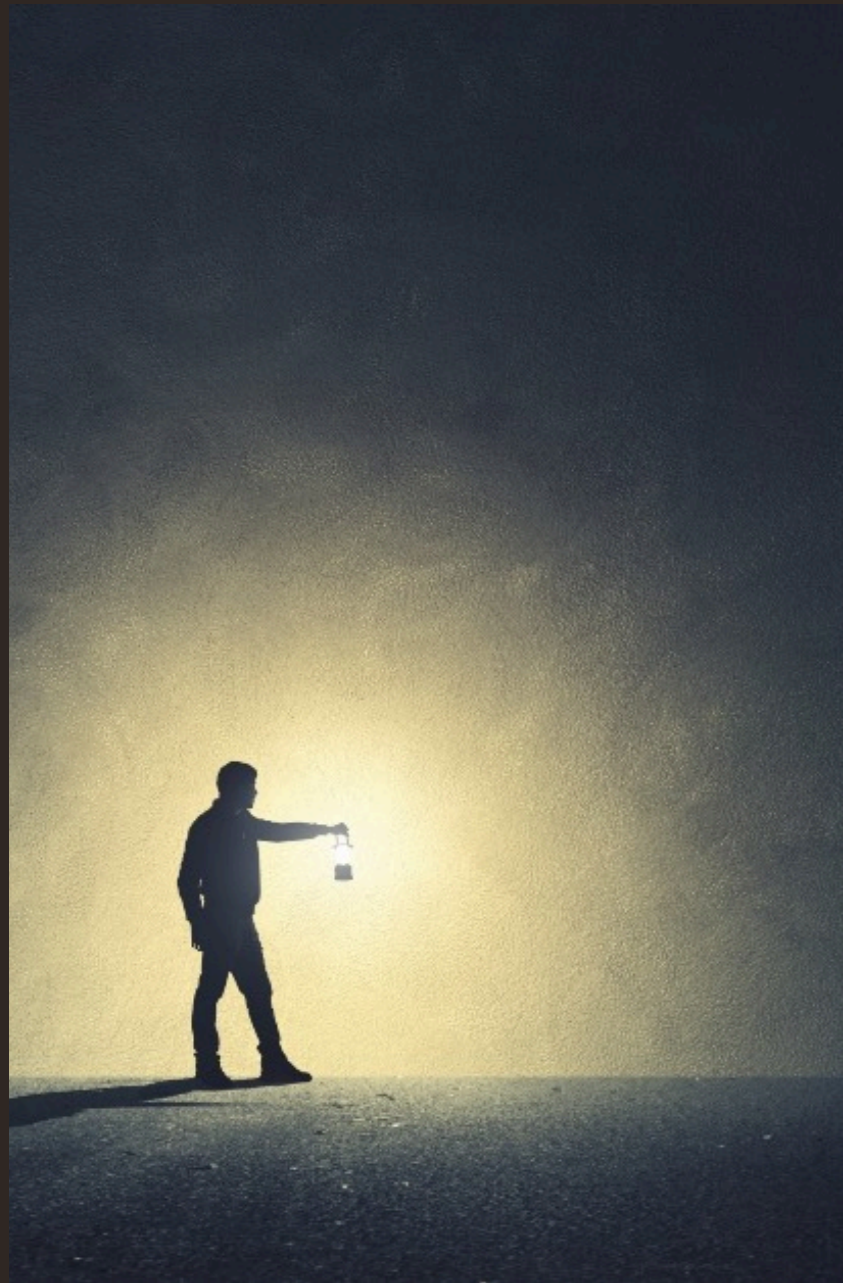
of the Living God. His Spirit empowers us to be His hands and feet, His heart and voice, in a broken world.

In actuality, we are priests who always dwell in the midst of God's tabernacling presence. May this color everything we think, say, and do. Wherever the Church goes, the presence of God is carried—into neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and even across nations.

When Jesus commissioned his people to go into all the nations, He told them to obey and proclaim everything He taught. It was no small thing that He promised His presence would always be with them (Matthew 28:18-20). We are the place where heaven touches earth, not because of who we are, but because of Who dwells and abides within us.



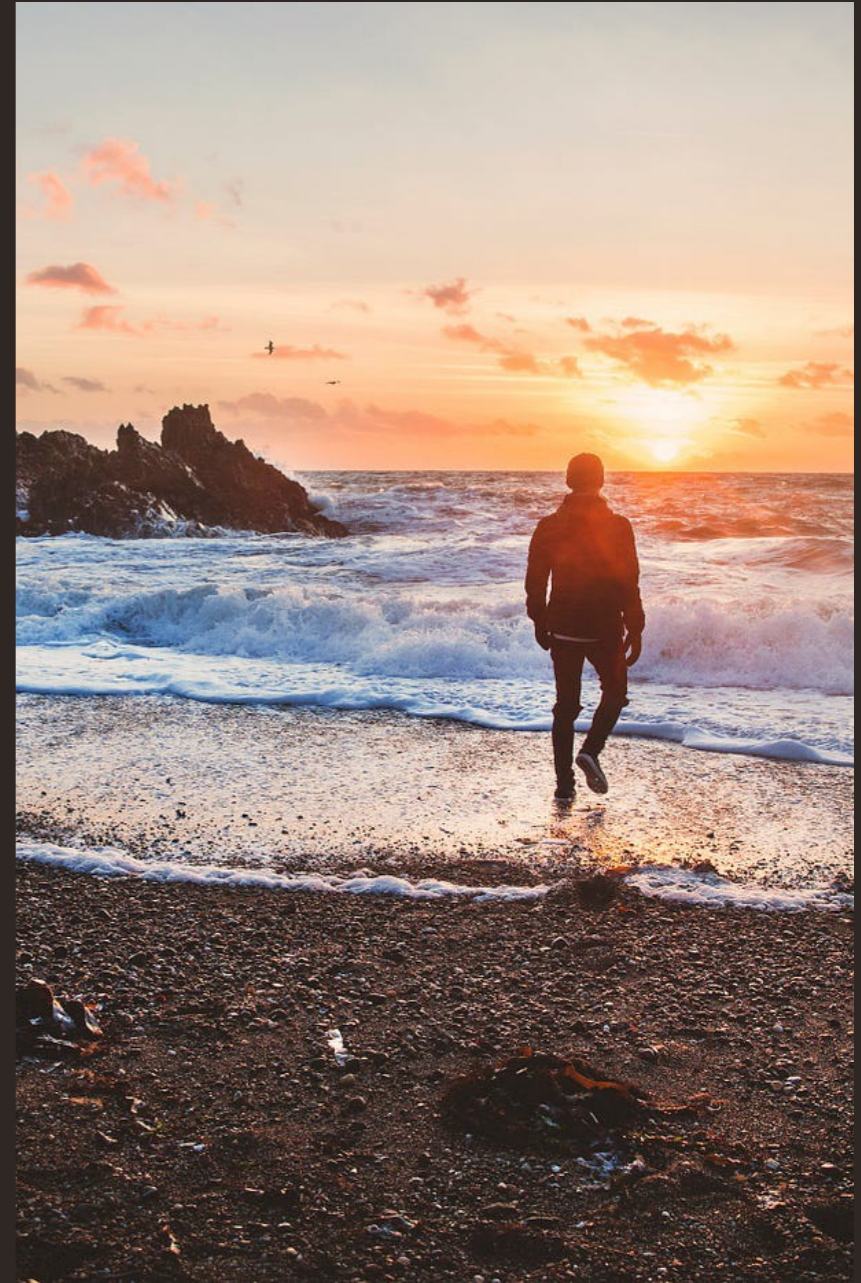
## **WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE WALKING WITH THE SPIRIT?**



**How has the Spirit guided you?**



**How has the Spirit supported you?**



**How has the Holy Spirit comforted you?**





What was it like to be with the Spirit? His presence? His guidance? His comfort? **Reflect for a few moments on these questions. Write down what comes to mind.**

**"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth."**

– John 14:16-17a





## DIG DEEPER

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

How do you personally experience the Holy Spirit in your daily leadership? What practices help you remain sensitive to the Spirit's guidance throughout your day? How do you cultivate a place where the Spirit is welcomed and obeyed?

What does it look like to be a part of God's expanding temple today? What markers would you look for to know that the mission is truly Spirit-empowered rather than merely strategy-driven? How do you ensure the mission isn't just *for* God but *with* God?

**BOOK :** God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale (chapter 7-8)

**BOOK :** The Presence of God, Ryan Lister (chapter 11)

**ARTICLE :** What does it mean for us to be the temple of God?

**ARTICLE :** Presence of God



DAY 6

# ZION



"All my life the God of the Mountain has been wooing me"

– C.S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*, p.87

"sum up and contain the entire message of the Bible. The whole of the history of the covenant and redemption lies behind this glorious affirmation. Every aspect of the hope of Israel—covenant, redemption, promised land, temple, Zion, Davidic prince, new Eden—is woven into this one simple and profound statement: the dwelling of God is with man."

– Graeme Goldsworthy, *The Gospel in Revelation*, p.145





**Revelation 21:1-5.** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

**Additionally Read:** Revelation 21-22, Colossians 3:1-2



Think about things to come. Become aware of God's loving presence and read again...

**What in God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read...yield to God and enjoy his presence.



 **BIG IDEA**

From the moment we pick up a book and begin reading a story, we eagerly anticipate how it will end. It's no different with God's story. In His story, the ending is when everything will be made right and restored to how it was meant to be.

Since Genesis 3, mankind has longed to be back in Eden where God's presence was lost due to the sin of Adam and Eve. Later God departed from Jerusalem when the temple veil was torn following the death of Jesus. These were always temporary dwelling places for God. God had always prepared a permanent place for His people to dwell with Him called Zion, the New Jerusalem. It is a city where there is no night, and there isn't any need for the sun or the moon because the light comes from the Lord and the Lamb.

What makes the New Jerusalem new? What makes it heavenly and glorious? What makes it more desirable than anything you have ever experienced? Simple. It is the presence of God. Zion is the place where God is, God reigns, He fills the temple and paradise returns.

Revelation 21-22 shows, a better city, one that descends from heaven, rests atop the mountain, and will forever be the center of God's relational presence.

The Bible's story is not unlike a mountain. Each story or book builds on another to form a larger and grander story, the way ridges and valleys build on each other to create the majestic mountain. From the top, one can see the whole landscape, and it makes sense.

The beauty and clarity of God's story are unmatched. In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, we hear Aslan booming inviting us to "Come further up! Come further in!" It leaves us breathless. It shakes us to the soul. We ache to ascend to Eden – but better is still in store.

God's desire to be relationally present is a major impetus for His redemptive mission. God's purpose and design for His dwelling place from the beginning of creation to the culmination of all things was to fill the entire heavens and earth—the cosmos. God begins and ends the history of redemption with His presence because the expansion and enjoyment of His presence for His glory is at the center of it all.



## DWELL

**Dwell in the City.** What will it be like to be with the Lord forever? His presence? His throne? The sights and sounds? **Reflect for a few moments on these questions. Write down what comes to mind.**

**“And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.”**  
– Revelation 21:22



**WHAT DO  
YOU HAVE  
TO LOOK  
FORWARD  
UPON THE  
MOUNTAIN  
OF GOD?**



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

How does the biblical vision of the New Jerusalem shape your understanding of God's ultimate mission for the world? How does the hope of the future city of God encourage you during times of disappointment or discouragement in ministry?

Revelation speaks of God dwelling with His people. How does this promise inform the way we view permanence, mobility, and place in mission? Are we more focused on movement (programs, outcomes) than on presence (with God, with people)?

**BOOK :** God Dwells Among Us, G.K. Beale (chapter 9-11)

**BOOK :** The Presence of God, Ryan Lister (chapters 3)

**PODCAST :** Zion, the City of Our God

**ARTICLE :** The Mountain     **CHAPTER :** Leaders Practice the Presence of God



DAY 7

**REST**



A believer longs after God, to come into his presence, to feel his love, to feel near to him in secret, to feel in the crowd that he is nearer than all the creatures. Ah! dear brethren, have you ever tasted this blessedness? There is greater rest and solace to be found in the presence of God for one hour than in an eternity of the presence of man.

– Robert Murray M'Cheyne

It is not necessary to maintain a conversation when we are in the presence of God. We can come into His presence and rest our weary souls in quiet contemplation of Him. Our groanings, which cannot be uttered, rise to Him and tell Him better than words how dependent we are upon Him.

– Ole Hallesby



## READ

**Hebrews 4:9-11a.** There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest.

**Matthew 11:28-30.** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Additionally Read:** Hebrews 4:1-11; Exodus 33:14

## REREAD

Breathe. Slow down. Become aware of God's loving presence and read again...

**What in God's Word has caught your heart's attention? Is there a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored?**

Talk to God about the Scripture you've just read...yield to God and enjoy his presence.



## 💡 BIG IDEA

We are ambushed by countless demands and routines. Even our vacations can have an overwhelming, task-like edge. We can think, "If I only had more time." But is this the real problem? What we've really lost is the rest God gives and, with it, that part of Himself we can know only through wasting time with Him.

Rest is good. God set the tone and example. After six days of creating the universe, God took the seventh day and rested. Jesus, when pressed by the crowds, purposely pulled away and rested. We who are prone to grow weary are called to rest.

A common Hebrew word for rest is *Shabat*. This word stretches back to creation and was the name given to the seventh day of the week. God's rest was not born of exhaustion, but of completion, of delight in a world perfectly made. God intentionally tied shabat to a weekly rhythm for His people that included resting in His presence. God's aim for this day was that His people would work from their rest rather than work to rest.

Another word for rest in the Hebrew is *Nuach*. It can mean "rest" but it also means "settle". While Israel wandered in the wilderness they waited for a home

and a place to settle. They became nomads and camped for decades since their escape from Egypt. God promised His people a "resting place" in the land, a physical haven from their wanderings.

Yet, these rests were but shadows, pointing to a deeper, more profound rest. For Israel, even in the promised land, their rest was often disturbed by disobedience and unbelief. And for us, even the most perfect weekend getaway eventually gives way to the return of Monday morning's demands.

The Sabbath, whether a day or practice or promise, was always meant to point to Jesus who ultimately is our rest. The Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus, is the very embodiment of the rest we crave. He is the fulfillment of every Sabbath, every promise of a safe haven. He is the presence of God and our a place of rest.



## DWELL

**Sit and Rest.** What is it like to sit and be still with Jesus? His presence? To take the weight off? To wait with Him? **Reflect for a few moments on these questions. Write down what comes to mind.**

**"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."**  
— Exodus 33:14

"In a culture where busyness is a fetish and stillness is laziness, rest is sloth. But without rest, we miss the rest of God: the rest he invites us to enter more fully so that we might know him more deeply."  
— Mark Buchanan





HOW DO YOU  
SEE GOD'S  
REST IN EACH  
OF THESE  
DWELLING  
PLACES?



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR MISSION LEADERS

What does Sabbath rest look like for you in the context of your calling and responsibilities? How do you balance the urgency of the mission with the command to rest? What rhythms of rest or retreat are built into the life of the team? What are the biggest challenges you see when it comes to honoring rest from mission work? Do you see rest as an act of trust or worship in your leadership? How so? Are there any Scriptures or stories that shape your understanding of rest in ministry?

**BOOK :** The Rest of God, Restoring Your Soul By Restoring Sabbath, Mark Buchanan

**PODCAST :** The Rest of God

**MESSAGE :** The Rest-Giver



# Prayers & Songs of Presence

How many prayers have you heard that begin with the phrase?

"Lord, we come into Your **presence**..."

How many songs are sung that acknowledge the Presence of God?

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, **Thy presence** my light.

How many Psalms like David's point to God who is?

You make known to me the path of life; in Your **presence** there is  
fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.



**Spotify  
playlist of  
songs  
inspired by  
Dwelling  
Places**





**[spreadingthefame.com](https://spreadingthefame.com)**