



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: Exodus 40

Title: Look to His Presence

Author: **Ps Meng Cham**

Summary of Chapter: At this juncture Israel had not even begun their journey. Moses had finished the work of constructing and setting up the Tabernacle according to the blueprint God gave Him. Eight times it says he did exactly as the Lord commanded him. But little did Israel know their wilderness journey would last 40 years.

Key Verses (NLT):

How does it speak to me?

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle . . . ³⁶ Now whenever the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out on their journey, following it. ³⁷ But if the cloud did not rise, they remained where they were until it lifted. ³⁸ The cloud of the Lord hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys."

Both the cloud and the fire were symbols of God's abiding presence. The Lord knew that as long as they honoured His presence with worship and followed His leading (of cloud and fire) they would be safe no matter how difficult the journey ahead was. It was His localized presence (with the Tabernacle placed at the centre of their camp) that made all the difference between Israel and the surrounding nations.

Our daughter has been working overseas for a few years now. There have been times that we felt that our physical presence was what was needed to support her. But in this current situation with restricted air travel we could only pray (with equal parts of fervency and desperation) that the same presence of God we experience here would be the same presence that we could entrust her to where she was. Praise God, His grace is always sufficient. Again and again He proves that He is our faithful God when we look to Him and not our circumstance. Better than even our physical presence is God's unflinching presence. How much more, God our Father longs to let us know that He is indeed with us in our moments of trial and difficulty.

Only God knows how long before this pandemic pans out. As the tabernacle did for Israel, let us also centre our lives by honouring Him in worship daily and following His leading at all times.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: How does knowing that God is with you help you navigate the times of difficulty that we go through? What can you do to cultivate a stronger awareness of His presence in your life?

Youth: What are some of the ways God has shown you that He is with you? How did you respond?

Child: Can you remember an incident when you really wanted your father or mother to be with you? How did it feel when they were with you? How did it feel when they could not be there with you?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture: Our heavenly Father, You are a very present help in our times of need. Teach us to honour Your presence so that Your glory may dwell among us. Guide us, Holy Spirit in all that we do.

Thanksgiving Prayer: I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer: I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.