

Unit 5.4 Devotions- The Place of Meeting, January 23-29, 2022

DAY 01: EXODUS 40:1-15

Moses anointed Aaron and his sons as priests. They were set apart to serve God. They served God by going to the people on behalf of the Lord and going to the Lord on behalf of the people. All Christians have been set apart to serve God. We should use our access to God to pray for others. We should also represent God by serving the people in our lives as the hands and feet of Jesus. Live like you have been set apart by God for service.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THINK OF YOURSELF AS SET APART BY GOD?

HOW CAN YOU PRAY FOR OTHERS MORE?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE MORE?

DAY 02: EXODUS 40:34-38

HOW DO YOU THINK OF GOD? DISTANT OR NEAR?

HOW CAN YOU DRAW NEAR TO GOD?

HOW DOES THE GOSPEL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE?

God came down to dwell among the Israelites in the tabernacle. Later, God came to dwell with us through Jesus. Then, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. And one day, we will live with God forever. The Bible begins with humanity and God in a garden, and it ends with God and humanity in a new creation. We were made to be with God. He is with you by His Spirit; He wants you to walk with Him every day. We don't serve a God who is distant. He draws near to us and He invites us to draw near to Him.

DAY 03: EPHESIANS 2:16-22

The apostle Paul taught that we are the holy temple of God (2:21). Collectively, the church is now the house of God. This is possible because of what Christ has done and because of the work of the Holy Spirit. Wherever we meet—a church building, house, school, or anywhere else—God's presence is among us. This gives us all the more reason to gather with other believers at every opportunity so that we might experience God's presence in our lives more tangibly and live in light of his presence daily.

WHY MIGHT IT BE IMPORTANT TO THINK OF THE PEOPLE, NOT THE BUILDING, AS GOD'S TEMPLE?

HOW MIGHT ATTENDING CHURCH HELP YOU SENSE GOD'S PRESENCE MORE IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BENEFITS OF GATHERING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS WEEKLY?

DAY 04: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

WOULD YOU BE MORE CAREFUL WITH SOMETHING IF YOU KNEW IT WAS SPECIAL?

HOW WOULD YOU TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY IF YOU KNEW IT BELONGED TO SOMEONE IMPORTANT?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CARE FOR YOUR BODY WELL?

Paul teaches us two important things about ourselves in these verses. First, your body matters. Our bodies, and what we choose to do with them, are not insignificant. How would you treat an envelope with one million dollars in it? How about a car seat with an infant inside? Your body houses the one, true, and living God. Second, your body does not belong to you. You belong to Jesus. How would you treat a house or car that isn't yours? Don't be careless or immoral with your body. Honor it as the house of God and remember that you belong to Christ.

DAY 05: 1 PETER 2:4-10

If you have put your faith in Jesus, God has made you a living part of His temple and a priest. He's made you a citizen of a holy nation and His own special possession. Why? Peter says it's so "you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you" (2:9). God has brought you near to Himself and made you His very own. As you experience Him more, you will see just how awesome God is. As you grow to understand the gospel more, your amazement over God will grow, too. Think about how great God is and consider how you can share that with other people today.

WHAT ARE SOME OF GOD'S EXCELLENCIES THAT ARE WORTH TELLING OTHERS ABOUT?

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PROCLAIM GOD'S GREATNESS TO OTHERS?

WHO HAS GOD PLACED IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU COULD TELL ABOUT GOD'S GREATNESS?