

Sanctuary-Week 1
What is a Sanctuary?
Exodus 25:1-9

Context

In Exodus 25, God instructs Moses to build a sanctuary—a dwelling place where His presence would be with His people. The sanctuary was not just about a building, but about God’s desire to be near His people and for His people to worship Him in holiness and reverence. As your church builds a new sanctuary, this passage reminds us that the true goal is not just a structure, but a place set apart for God’s presence and His people’s worship.

Read the Passage: Exodus 25:1–9

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Passage

1. Why do you think God asked the people to give offerings willingly from their hearts (vv. 1–2)?
2. What does the variety of materials (gold, silver, fabrics, wood, oil, etc.) tell us about the care and intentionality God desired for His sanctuary?
3. In verse 8, God says, “*Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.*” What does this reveal about God’s heart for His people?
4. Why is it important that Moses was told to build the sanctuary “*exactly like the pattern*” God gave (v. 9)?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. How do you see God's desire to "dwell among His people" fulfilled today through Jesus and the church?
2. When you think about your new church building, what excites you most about it being a sanctuary for God?
3. In what ways can you personally contribute—through service, giving, or prayer—to making your church a true sanctuary for God's presence?
4. What would it look like for your *life* to be a sanctuary, a place where God's Spirit dwells?
5. How can your small group or church family ensure the new sanctuary doesn't just become a building, but a place of mission, worship, and transformation?

Group Challenge

This week, pray daily for your church's new building project—not just for its completion, but that it would truly become a sanctuary where God is honored, His presence is experienced, and lives are transformed. As a group, consider choosing one specific way to help make the new sanctuary welcoming and holy (through prayer walks, volunteering, or generosity).

Sanctuary-Week 2
‘The Theme of God’s Desire for a Sanctuary’
Genesis 2:8-9, Exodus 40:33-38, 2 Chronicles 5, Matthew
27:51, Revelation 22:1-5

Context

From the very beginning, God’s desire has been to dwell with His people:

- In **Eden** (Gen. 2), the garden was a sanctuary where God walked with humanity.
- In the **Tabernacle and Temple** (Ex. 40; 2 Chr. 5), God’s presence filled a holy space where His people worshiped Him.
- At the **cross** (Matt. 27:51), Jesus tore the veil, removing the separation between God and humanity.
- In the **New Creation** (Rev. 22), God’s sanctuary is fully realized as His presence is with His people forever.

This thread reminds us that a sanctuary isn’t just a building—it’s the expression of God’s longing to be with His people.

Read the Passages Together

- **Genesis 2:8–9** – God places Adam in the garden sanctuary.
- **Exodus 40:33–38** – God’s glory fills the tabernacle.
- **2 Chronicles 5** – God’s glory fills the temple.
- **Matthew 27:51** – The temple veil is torn at Jesus’ death.
- **Revelation 22:1–5** – The final sanctuary: God dwelling with His people forever.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Storyline

1. In Genesis 2, how is the garden more than just a place—it's a sanctuary?
2. What do Exodus 40 and 2 Chronicles 5 show us about God's presence in the sanctuary?
3. Why is the tearing of the veil in Matthew 27:51 such a significant moment in God's plan of dwelling with His people?
4. How does Revelation 22:1–5 complete the story that began in Genesis 2?
5. What do these passages collectively teach us about God's heart and desire for relationship with His people?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. If God's greatest desire is to dwell with His people, what does that say about your worth and purpose?
2. In what ways can your new church building be more than a structure—how can it embody God's desire to dwell with His people?
3. The tearing of the veil means God's presence is accessible through Jesus. How can you live daily in that reality instead of keeping God at a distance?
4. Revelation 22 gives a picture of eternal sanctuary. How does that future hope shape the way you live and worship now?
5. What's one way you can help your church family create a space (physical and spiritual) where people truly experience God's presence?

Group Challenge

This week, practice **hosting God's presence** in your daily life.

Take intentional time each day (in prayer, worship, or Scripture) to make space for God. At your next group gathering, share how this practice changed your awareness of God's nearness.

Sanctuary-Week 3
“A House of Prayer and a Place of Refuge”
Isaiah 56

Context

Isaiah 56 speaks of God’s vision for His house — that it would be **a house of prayer for all nations** and a place where the outcast, the foreigner, and the marginalized could find refuge and belonging. God’s sanctuary was never meant to be exclusive, but a place of worship, justice, and welcome for all who seek Him. As your church builds a sanctuary, this passage reminds us of God’s heart: a people and a place set apart for His presence and open to all.

Read the Passage: Isaiah 56:1–8

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Passage

1. What does God mean by “maintain justice and do what is right” (v. 1) in the context of His sanctuary?
2. How does this passage expand the vision of who is welcome in God’s house (vv. 3–7)?
3. In verse 7, God declares His house will be *“a house of prayer for all nations.”* What does that reveal about His desire for His sanctuary?
4. How do verses 6–8 highlight God’s heart for the outsider, the broken, and the marginalized?

5. What does this passage teach us about the purpose of a sanctuary beyond being just a place of worship?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. When you think about your church's new building, how can it practically become "a house of prayer for all nations"?
2. How welcoming is your church to those who might feel like outsiders or outcasts? Where can you personally grow in reflecting God's heart of hospitality and refuge?
3. In your own life, what would it look like to be a "house of prayer" — someone who consistently seeks God's presence?
4. How can your small group intentionally embody being a place of refuge for those in your community who are hurting, lonely, or overlooked?
5. What step could you take this week to make God's house — and your life — more of a sanctuary where others encounter His presence?

Group Challenge

This week, commit as a group to **pray intentionally for those who feel far from God or unwelcome in church**. Pray that your church's sanctuary would be a place where all people encounter God's presence, healing, and belonging. Consider inviting someone new or overlooked into your group or worship gathering as an act of living out this passage.

Sanctuary-Week 4

“Equipped and Sent”

Context

God’s sanctuary is not just a place to experience His presence, but a place where His people are **equipped to be sent out** into the world. Jesus gathered His disciples in the upper room, breathed the Spirit on them, and sent them on mission. The early church received power through the Holy Spirit and became witnesses across the world. The sanctuary, then, is both a place of **refuge** and a place of **launching** — equipping God’s people to go and carry His presence everywhere.

Read the Passages Together

- **John 20:19–22** – Jesus sends His disciples with the Spirit.
- **Acts 1:8** – The Spirit empowers God’s people to be witnesses.
- **Matthew 28:18–20** – The Great Commission.
- **Ephesians 4:11–13** – The church equips believers for works of service.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Theme

1. In John 20, what is the connection between peace, the Spirit, and being sent?
2. According to Acts 1:8, what is the purpose of receiving the Holy Spirit's power?
3. How does the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20) show that the sanctuary is not the end goal but the starting point?
4. In Ephesians 4, how does Paul describe the purpose of leaders in the church? What does this teach us about equipping?
5. How do these passages together describe the movement from sanctuary → equipping → sending?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. When you think about the new sanctuary your church is building, how can it both welcome people in **and** send people out?
2. How has God already equipped you (gifts, experiences, passions) to serve others and share the gospel?
3. What fears or obstacles do you face when it comes to being sent out to live on mission?
4. What practical step can you take to use the sanctuary (worship, teaching, community) as fuel for your daily witness in work, school, or neighborhood?
5. How can your group encourage one another not just to gather, but to go?

Group Challenge

This week, identify one way you can **live sent** — sharing Christ's love in word or action. Pray as a group for the Spirit's

empowerment, and commit to reporting back next week how you saw God use you.

Sanctuary-Week 5
“Finishing the Task”
Matthew 28:18-20

Context

Jesus’ Great Commission is the ultimate sending moment: all authority has been given to Him, and He calls His people to **go** and make disciples of all nations. God’s sanctuary is not meant to be a monument, but a movement — a place where people encounter His presence, are equipped in His Word, and then are sent to finish the task of making disciples until He returns.

Read the Passage: Matthew 28:18–20

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Passage

1. Why does Jesus begin with the statement that “*all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*”? How does this shape the mission?
2. What are the key actions Jesus commands in this passage? (make disciples, baptize, teach, go)
3. How does Jesus’ promise “*I am with you always*” give strength and encouragement for the task?

4. How does this mission connect to the idea of the sanctuary being a place to equip and send?
5. What does “all nations” mean in the context of today’s world and your local community?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. What role does the church’s sanctuary play in preparing you personally to live out the Great Commission?
2. Where is God calling you to “go” right now — workplace, school, neighborhood, city, or beyond?
3. Which part of disciple-making is most challenging for you: going, sharing the gospel, helping people grow, or teaching them to obey?
4. How can you practically live with a greater awareness that Jesus is *always with you* in daily life and mission?
5. What would it look like for your small group to work together in helping finish the task in your community?

Group Challenge

This week, take one step toward living out the Great Commission:

- Invite someone to church or your group.
- Share your faith with a friend or coworker.
- Pray for a specific person who needs Christ.

Come back next week ready to share how you lived out this mission!

Sanctuary-Week 6

Revelations 21-22

Context

The Bible begins with God walking with humanity in the garden (Genesis 2) and ends with God once again dwelling fully with His people in the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21–22). Here, there is no temple building, because **God Himself is the sanctuary**. His people will see His face, and His presence will fill all things. This vision reminds us that every sanctuary on earth — including the one our church is building — is meant to point us forward to this ultimate reality.

Read the Passage: Revelation 21:1–7; 21:22–27; 22:1–5

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Passage

1. What stands out to you most in John's vision of the new heaven and new earth?
2. Revelation 21:3 says, *"God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them."* How does this fulfill God's desire for sanctuary throughout Scripture?
3. Why do you think John says there is no temple in the city (Rev. 21:22)?

4. How do Revelation 22:1–5 (the river, the tree of life, no more curse) connect back to the garden of Eden in Genesis 2?
5. What does this vision teach us about the ultimate purpose of sanctuary?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. How does this eternal hope shape the way you see your church's new building — not as the end goal, but as a signpost pointing to God's eternal dwelling?
2. In what ways does knowing God will one day wipe away every tear encourage you in the struggles you face now?
3. How can you live more intentionally as a person of God's sanctuary — carrying His presence into your daily life?
4. What parts of your life need to be realigned to reflect the eternal perspective of Revelation 21–22?
5. How can your group encourage one another to keep eyes fixed on the hope of God's eternal sanctuary?

Group Challenge

This week, spend time each day reading a few verses from Revelation 21–22 and praying with gratitude for the eternal sanctuary to come.

As a group, consider closing this study series with a time of worship and thanksgiving, celebrating God's presence with you now and the hope of His presence forever.