

Day One: Exodus 26

- After guidelines for what goes *in* the tabernacle, God then tells Moses how to make the tabernacle itself. Describe its curtained walls (1-6). And the walls of the tent over the tabernacle (7-14)? This reads technically, like a sewing pattern, but it also reads *beautifully*. In your mind's eye, picture all of these fabrics housing the very presence of God. What do you see? How do you feel?
- Describe the makeup of the tabernacle's wooden frames (15-30). Once again this is technical, this time like a description of blueprints. What beauty do you see in these particular plans?
- As for the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, what is it like (31-33)? And the atonement cover, table and entrance curtain (34-37)? Jesus forever opened the curtain, giving us clear access to the Father, so this passage may feel irrelevant. Ask God to help you understand and feel connected to the text. Why is the history of ancient Judaism important to our faith?

Day Two: Matthew 7:24-29

- What “therefore” – a shift from belief to behavior – comes at the end of The Sermon on the Mount (24)? How does the “house built on the rock” fare (25)? Living according to Jesus’ teachings produces wisdom and keeps the house standing; it’s not the other way around. How is this true in your own life?
- What are the repercussions of failing to put Jesus’ words into practice (26-27)? When you read the Bible – perhaps the entire Sermon on the Mount – and pray, what do you hear Jesus teaching you? Have you put it all into practice? What steps can you take to begin living by all of Jesus’ teachings?
- When Jesus finished The Sermon on the Mount, how did people respond (28)? Why (29)? Pray you’d be similarly impacted by Jesus’ authority: may it always feel extraordinarily better than the law, and may it help you remain faithful to him for the long-haul.

Day Three: Matthew 27:32-56

- Who carried Jesus’ cross (32)? Describe the circumstances of Jesus’ crucifixion (33-37). The sign, though mocking, speaks truth. What other truths does the crucifixion communicate to you?
- Who else was crucified (38)? Who joined the soldiers in taunting Jesus (39, 41, 44)? In what ways (39-40, 42-44)? Attacked from all sides, how do you think Jesus felt? Describe the final moments leading up to, and the culmination of his death (45-50). Jesus’ fretful submission to suffering dominate the scene. What does this reveal about God’s heart? How should you respond?
- What was the immediate aftermath of Jesus’ death (51-53)? Compare verse 51 to Exodus 26:31-33. How do you think Jews responded to the Temple curtain being torn in two? What does it mean for you? How did the centurion and others respond (54)? Meanwhile, what were Jesus’ female friends up to (55-56)? If you were an eyewitness, how do you think you would’ve responded?

Day Four: Romans 1:18-32

- Describe the revelation of God's wrath (18). What does wickedness suppress (18-19)? What should be plain to people (19-20)? Look around you and within: where does evil suppress truth? By staying connected to the faith, how can you fight back?
- Rejecting God's plan for the flourishing of all creation often begins with shifts in our thoughts. How does Paul describe this (21-23)? What common thoughts of our time appear futile? Who or what receives the worship only God deserves?
- As thoughts decay, summarize what follows (24-32). Note the twice-used phrase "God gave them over." The Lord allows us to make choices, and those choices have consequences. Both now and in the past, how has this unfolded?
- Meditate on the end of verse 32. Depravity begins with truth suppression and ends with explicit approval of sin and destruction. In order to resist, pray for strength to abide by Hebrews 10:22-25.

Day Five: Philippians 4:10-23

- As his letter winds down, what gratitude does Paul express (10)? What preceded his gratitude (11)? How does he describe what it means to be content (11-13)? What role does contentment play in staying connected to faith and fellowship? When church feels unfulfilling or frustrating, what strength does God give to you?
- Despite his contentment, what does Paul declare good (14)? What backstory does he tell about the Philippians (15-16)? Imagine Paul instead on his own in ministry, having never received these gifts. With no one to spur him on, especially while imprisoned – as he was when he penned this letter – what would've been different about his story? Would he have eventually given up?
- What are Paul's thoughts on generosity (17-20)? Summarize his "final greetings" (21-23). Again, imagine Paul with no one to write to, no one to encourage him to press on in faith, hope and love. Be grateful for those who help you to keep moving toward God.