

Signposts Week 12

"Dwelling: The Story of God's Presence with His People"

This week's study traces the movement of **God's presence** throughout the Bible, from the **Garden of Eden** to the **New Jerusalem**, revealing a God who has always desired **to dwell with His people**. Through the tabernacle, the temple, and ultimately Jesus Christ, God demonstrated His holiness and His deep longing for restored fellowship with humanity. While His presence was once symbolized in physical places like the Ark and the temple, the story of Scripture shows that God's true goal was never a building—it was **relationship**. In Christ, we become the dwelling place of God through the **Holy Spirit**, and our lives are now temples of His presence as we await the fullness of His glory.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the progression of God's dwelling places—from the garden, to the tabernacle, to the temple, and ultimately to Jesus—tell us about His character and His desire for relationship with humanity?

- God is **relational, holy**, and always **moving toward His people**, even when we rebel (Genesis 3:8; Exodus 25:8; John 1:14).
- Where do you see evidence in your life that God is drawing near to you—even in seasons when you've felt distant?

2. Why couldn't God's presence remain in places like the Garden of Eden, the camp at Sinai, or the Jerusalem temple forever?

- **Sin separates us** from the holy presence of God. His dwelling is always conditional on holiness and obedience (Genesis 3:24; Exodus 33:3; Ezekiel 10:18–19).
- What are some ways we treat God's presence casually, and how can we recover a sense of reverence in our daily walk?

3. How does John's statement that Jesus "tabernacled among us" (John 1:14) connect to the Old Testament imagery of God's dwelling?

- Just as God's presence dwelled in the tabernacle and temple, **Jesus became the physical manifestation of God's presence on earth**, fulfilling all that those symbols pointed to.
- How does understanding Jesus as God's dwelling place with us change the way you approach your relationship with Him?

4. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, we are now temples of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean for how we live?

- It means **God's presence now dwells in us**, and we are called to live lives that reflect His holiness and carry His presence into the world.
- What would change in your mindset or habits if you woke up each day deeply aware that you are a temple of the living God?

5. Revelation 21:22 says there will be no temple in the New Jerusalem because God and the Lamb are its temple. What does this reveal about our future with God?

- In eternity, we will experience **unbroken, fully restored fellowship** with God—no more separation, no more symbols, just direct presence forever.
- How does this eternal promise motivate you to live differently now as you carry His presence in this broken world?

Group Prayer Prompts

- **Thank God for His desire to dwell with us.**

“Lord, thank You that from the very beginning, Your desire has been to be near us, to walk with us, and to restore what sin has broken. Thank You for making a way through Jesus.”

- **Ask God to help you live with reverence as His dwelling place.**

“Holy Spirit, remind me daily that I am Your temple. Teach me to carry Your presence with holiness, humility, and purpose.”

- **Invite God to reveal areas of your life where His presence is not honored.**

“Search me, O God, and show me anything in my heart or habits that does not reflect Your holiness. Create in me a clean heart.”

- **Pray for a deeper awareness of God's nearness—even in exile or wilderness seasons.**

“Father, when I feel far from You, help me remember that You are not limited by place or circumstance. Let me see Your glory, even by the riverbanks of my hardest days.”

- **Look ahead with hope to the day when we will dwell with God face to face.**

“Lord, thank You for the promise that one day, there will be no more temple, no more distance, no more separation—only Your light, Your presence, and eternal peace. Come, Lord Jesus.”