

DISCUSSION GUIDE

This Is Our Story - The Tabernacle

Text: Exodus 25:1-9

Warming Up

1. Have you ever been to a Temple? Where was it, and how did it make you feel?
2. Where or when do you (did you) feel the presence of God?

Digging In

Read Exodus 25:1-9

1. The LORD tells Moses to take an offering for the supplies needed. Why not just command the Israelites to give?
2. Why did Israel need this Tabernacle?

Skim Exodus 25:10-31:17

1. Why were the instructions for the Tabernacle, its furnishings, and the priestly functions so detailed?
2. Pastor Craig noted the Hebrew language parallel between these instructions and the creation story in Genesis. Find the 7 times where the text says, "And the LORD said to Moses..."
3. Do you see a symbolism that points to Jesus? Put yourself in the place of an ancient Israelite. What symbolism do you see now?

Read John 1:1-14

1. What images of the Tabernacle (or Temple) might John be drawing from in this text?
2. Pastor Craig noted that John chose the Greek word for "pitch a tent" when talking about the incarnation. Other than a possible allusion to the Tabernacle, why else might that be an appropriate word to use?
3. How does The Word pitch a tent with us today?

Read John 14:23; 17:20-21

1. What does it mean for the Father and Son to live with you?
2. How do we as all of God's people become the place where God dwells?
3. If God now dwells within and among us, how should we live out the reality of being the Tent or Tabernacle where God dwells in this world?

Sending Out

Who has experience God because of you and us?

Closing

Hear the Vision Statement of both Virginia Conference and MCUSA:

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ,

And by the power of the Holy Spirit

To grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace,

So that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Close in Prayer