

30. The Almighty God is invested in and full of love for those who follow Him. Read 1 John 3:1-3, 16-24. Out of love, God ultimately sacrificed His own Son for the sake of sinful people. In this relationship with God, He forgives our sin and calls us His own beloved children. This is the heart of God toward people. Read Psalm 116:1-9 as your prayer today as you remember and rest in His amazing love.

### Friday – Tabernacle and Worship

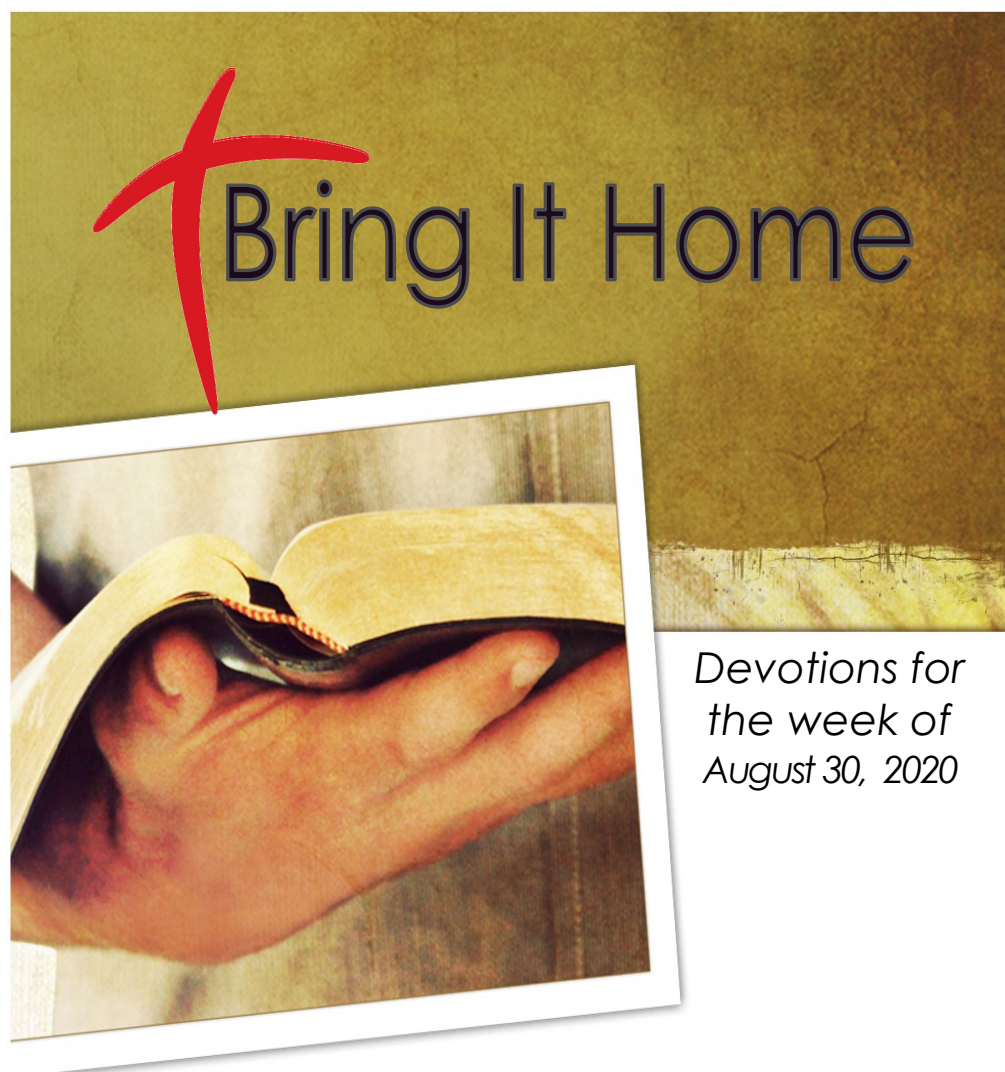
Exodus 25:8 says, “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.” Through chapters 25-30 of Exodus, God outlines in amazing detail, a tabernacle – a traveling tent-sanctuary where He promised to meet with them, to dwell with them. Through every aspect of its design and function, it was intended to train God’s people and teach them to understand the holiness of God, the reality of their own sinful condition, and the means to be reconciled to God. This amazing structure, however, was not an end in itself. It was meant to reveal the coming Redeemer, Jesus. He is the perfect sacrificial lamb, the fulfillment of this tent-church object lesson. Read Hebrews 9:1-14 and marvel at the wisdom and amazing love of our God.

### Saturday – Golden Calves

Read Exodus 32:1-8. While Moses has been having this long 40 day conversation and training session with God, the people followed the inclinations of their hearts and asked Aaron to make them a “real” god, one they could see. It’s hard to imagine this going on with all that they had experienced and all that they had seen and heard. The chapter goes on to record Moses’ fury and the way he deals with their gross disobedience. As a leader, Moses has a burden of responsibility to not only guide but discipline the people so that they would follow God with pure hearts. Read Exodus 34:4-14. In a generous act of restoration God promises His continued presence with the people and commands them to not make any alliances with those who live in the land, lest their hearts be snared and drawn away from the one true God. Today we may not have crafted golden calves, but in many subtle ways we may have allowed our hearts to be snared by gods of possessions, position, or power. The Almighty God doesn’t ignore our sin, but condemns it. As we confess our sinfulness and repent, God restores us by the blood of Jesus. In preparation for worship tomorrow, consider your own sins and bring them to the cross for full forgiveness and restoration.

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*Devotions for  
the week of  
August 30, 2020*

### What Now?

Consider these touchpoints from today’s message to continue pondering:

- Are you in the middle of a “grumble-fest”? If so, take a step back and reflect on what you may be missing of God’s provision or love right now.
- Spend some time with the 10 Commandments, thinking about what positive action you can take in your life in response to one of the commandments.
- Remember that God is in the details of your life – He care about you and the things you care about. If there are details you’re worrying about, take some time to pray about them, commending those things and yourself to your Savior’s care.

## **Monday – Grumbling**

We're spending one more week with Moses and some of what transpired after crossing the Red Sea in our "You Can't Make This Stuff Up!," summer series. Read Exodus 16:1-18. Surely I wouldn't be guilty of the same sort of grumbling as the Israelites! But when I bemoan my position in life, my deficits and my circumstances, I am in essence saying to God, "You have betrayed me! You are untrustworthy! You are bringing me harm!" In their grumbling, God patiently taught the Israelites the truth. He was the God who was with them in their journeying – providing for them and leading them. In His provision of manna, quail, and water (among other things), they saw that God was good and that He could be trusted. What might distrust look like? Distrust of God might look like negativity and criticism of leaders. It might look like hoarding and stinginess. Distrust of God may look like striving to control my circumstances and the people around me. This is why both corporate worship with other believers and daily personal devotional time is so important. When I speak to God words of adoration and I proclaim His goodness to my own ears and the ears of my fellow believers at church and around my table, I exercise my faith, and my faith and trust grows! Grumbling is the hallmark of a faithless and godless culture. Read Psalm 27 as your prayer, and try to memorize the first line – "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"

## **Tuesday – Witnessing**

Read Exodus 16:17-36. The strategy of planned obsolescence is when a manufacturer plans their product to have a short lifespan, so as to require the consumer to buy again and replace the product. This is seen in phones being updated each year to have "new and improved" features to which the user must upgrade. It is also why kitchen appliances are made of plastic with low-grade motors--requiring a replacement rather than a fix when it breaks down. And don't get me started on printer ink cartridges..... However, we see in this portion of scripture a type of planned obsolescence from the Lord God. Manna had a shelf life! He provided enough for everyone for the day – but hoarding it, or stocking up did not work! God wanted the people to know that He was good and that He would certainly provide, and that He would do it again each and every day. He also directed them to refrain from gathering one day a week, relying on the earlier provision. This was to be the people's witness to the unbelievers around them. This is what we are doing when we observe a Sabbath rest – a day off. We are asserting that God does not need us and our work to keep the world spinning! He is God the Lord who provides abundantly to all. Give it a try! Stop working and consuming for a period each week.

Rest in God's provision and grow in trust! This will be a witness to your family, your neighbors, and will also witness to yourself. Remind your heart that it can rely on God in all things! Use Psalm 62:1-8 as your prayer of rest today.

## **Wednesday – What's Your Role?**

Read Exodus 17:8-15. In John chapter 16, Jesus tells His disciples, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." As God's beloved ones, we also are beset by enemies and trouble in this fallen world. We have setbacks and challenges of all kinds, but we can take heart that God has and will overcome! In their battle against the Amalekites, Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur all had distinct and separate roles. Joshua was in hand-to-hand combat, Moses was lifting hands to God in prayer for the battle, and Aaron, Hur, and even a boulder were serving Moses in his role to intercede for Joshua (I imagine some praying was happening by Aaron and Hur as well.) In the spiritual and physical battles of believers, we all have a role to play. Some are in battle directly – the parent shepherding a struggling child, the woman battling depression, the worker battling temptations in a difficult workplace, the young man battling cancer or addiction or wounds from an abusive past. We may never experience these struggles personally, but we are called to pray for those in the battle. Some are called to minister to those in the battle. Like Moses, pastors and other ministers can become weary in leading and arbitrating in the conflicts and struggles of life. Support comes from believers holding up their hands by encouraging words, giving generously of time, talents, and treasure to the ministry. The practical helping actions of providing a meal, childcare, or material goods is also a ministry of support to those in the battle or those in leadership and prayer. We are called to be "for" one another in both work and action. A verse from the hymn, "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling," is an encouragement for every believer to find their own leading, fighting, or supporting role in the ongoing life of faith. "If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall, Pointing out the path to heaven, Offering life and peace to all, With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God demands; You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands."

## **Thursday – Relationship**

Exodus chapters 19-23 record God meeting with Moses and the giving of the Law to His covenant people. There are the 10 Commandments, as well as many other commands, but what you might miss is God's heart. Read these words which God asked Moses to communicate to His chosen people. Exodus 19:4-9; Exodus 20:2; and Exodus 23:20-