



**Week 2**

**Sermon Series:** God With Us

**Sermon Title:** Together But Separate

**Sermon Text:** Assorted Passages

**Group Week of:** December 4, 2022

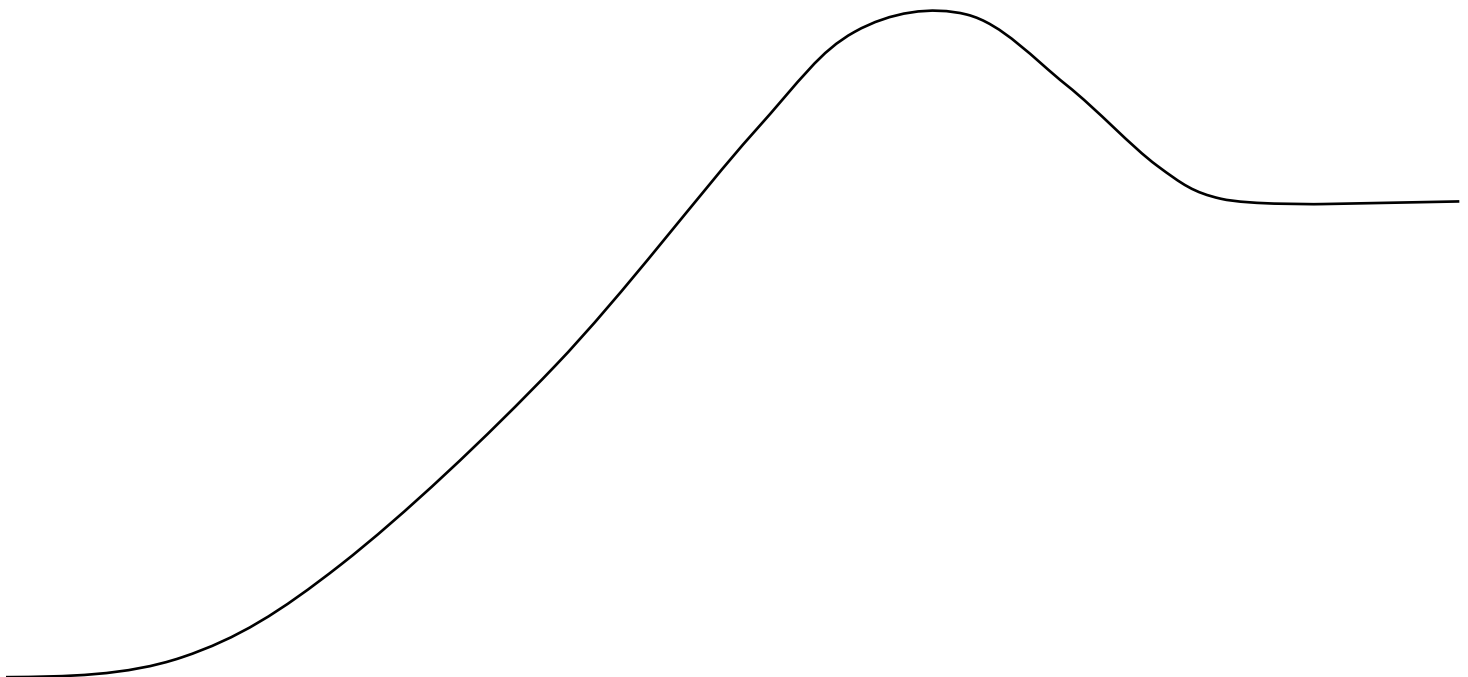
**Sermon Date:** December 11, 2022

<b>Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies</b>	
<b>Day 1</b>	The Ark Brought to Jerusalem – 2 Sam 6
<b>Day 2</b>	The Tabernacle – Exodus 40
<b>Day 3</b>	Festival of Booths – Leviticus 23:33-44
<b>Day 4</b>	Blood & Sin – Hebrews 9:11-28
<b>Day 5</b>	God’s Presence – Psalm 84

**The Text: 1 Kings 8:1-13**

**Instructions**

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the “Story Arc” below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



**Textual Questions**

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) Why is it necessary to mention the multitude of sacrificed animals on the day the Spirit of Lord fills the temple?
- 3) Although God’s presence was there in the temple, it is covered by the dark cloud. What could be the reason for God’s presence to be hidden within a dark cloud?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) In verses 1 and 2, who does Solomon summon to Jerusalem for the dedication of the temple? Why do you think it was so important for so many people to be gathered for this moment?
  
- 2) The festival of the seventh month (v.2) was the Feast of Booths. It was a time for Israel to live in tents and remember God's presence with them in the wilderness for forty years. In addition to timing the dedication of the temple with this festival, Solomon also has the Tabernacle brought and set up (v.4). When you consider these additional details, what message do you think God wants His people to know before His presence descends into the temple?
  
- 3) Sometimes it is hard for us to "feel" the presence of God in our lives. Consider the ways in which Israel is learning about God's presence in this story. Are there ways you can apply what you are reading here in your own seeking of God's presence in your life?
  
- 4) In verse 5 we read that they could not number the sheep and cattle being sacrificed. Why do you think death features so prominently in a story about God coming to dwell in His temple among His people?
  
- 5) Sometimes we forget that death is a necessary part of any sinner being able to come into the presence of God and still live. What can you do this week to remember that it is only through the death of Christ that you may come into God's presence? How does remembering His sacrifice affect your attitude towards seeking God's presence?
  
- 6) When God's presence descends on the temple it is hidden in a dark cloud and the priests had to leave, unable to perform their duties. Although God has moved to be with His people in an even more profound way, the separation between God and man is still very distinct. What does this separation teach us about our relationship with God?
  
- 7) How and why is your relationship with God fundamentally different than the Israelites in 1 Kings 8?
  
- 8) Through Christ, God is with always with us. Spend some time seeking the Lord's presence in prayer and write out a thanks to Him for coming to be with you.