

GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

A dramatic scene of a path of sand leading through a sea of blue waves towards a bright light in the sky. The path is a narrow, straight strip of golden sand that recedes into the distance, flanked by large, dark blue waves with white foam. The sky is a mix of blue and white, with a bright, glowing light source in the center, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is one of hope and divine intervention.

A Journey Through Exodus

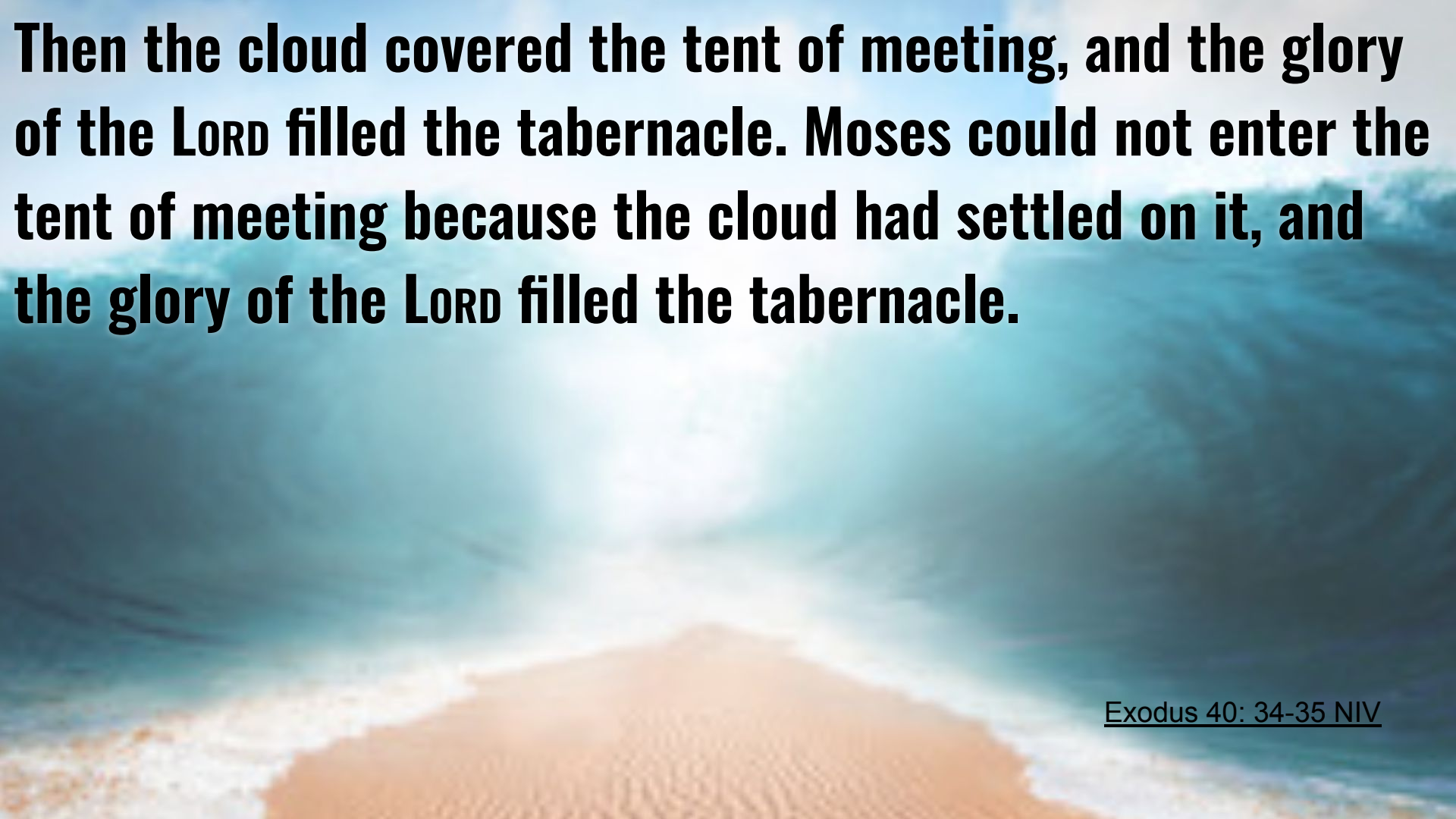
A dramatic seascape with a bright sunburst breaking through a dark, stormy sky over a sandy beach. The sun is positioned in the center, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, and the ocean is a deep, turbulent blue. The foreground shows a sandy beach with some white foam from waves washing onto the shore.

The Punchline

Don't miss the midst of God

Recap

- ★ Israelites held captive by Pharaoh
- ★ Moses called to lead the people out
- ★ God sends the plagues
- ★ God parts the Red Sea for the Israelites escape
- ★ Israelites had struggles
- ★ God gave the 10 Commandments
- ★ Israelites made an idol

The background of the image is a landscape featuring a large, orange, textured mound in the foreground, possibly a sand dune or a rocky outcrop. The sky above is bright and filled with soft, white clouds, creating a dramatic and atmospheric scene. The overall color palette is dominated by the warm orange of the mound and the cool blues and whites of the sky.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Exodus 40: 34-35 NIV

God's Glory Comes

- ★ God fills the tabernacle
- ★ God is now in the midst of His people
- ★ God's glory is a presence that can be seen and felt

GREATNESS



Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

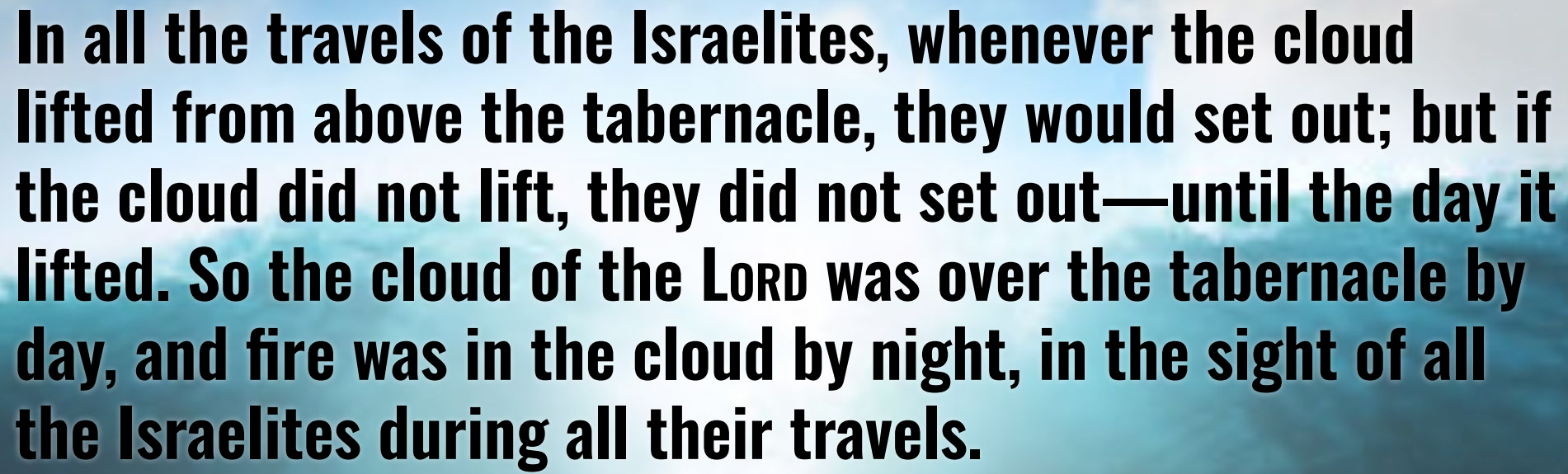
Ephesians 2: 11-13 NIV

God's Presence Comes

- ★ Jesus came and His presence is for everyone
- ★ No longer separate from Christ
- ★ The only barriers to God are the barriers that we create

Our Barriers To God's Presence

- ★ Disappointment
- ★ Pain
- ★ Pride



In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

Exodus 40: 36-38 NIV

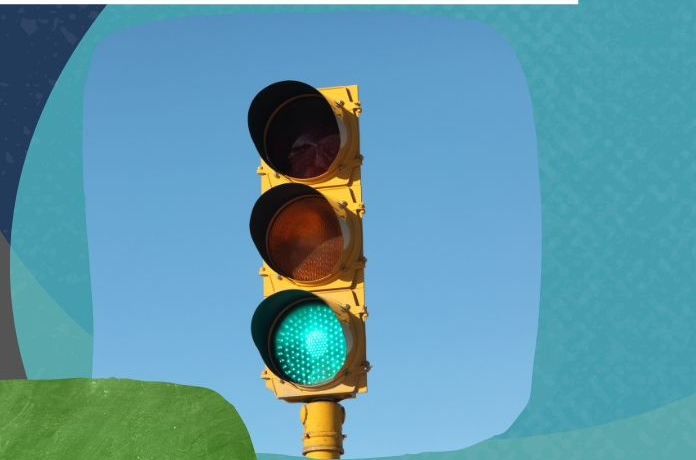
God's Glory Leads

- ★ When the cloud moved, the people moved
 - They go WITH God
- ★ If the cloud doesn't move, the people didn't move
- ★ The people knew they still needed God's presence

RED LIGHT



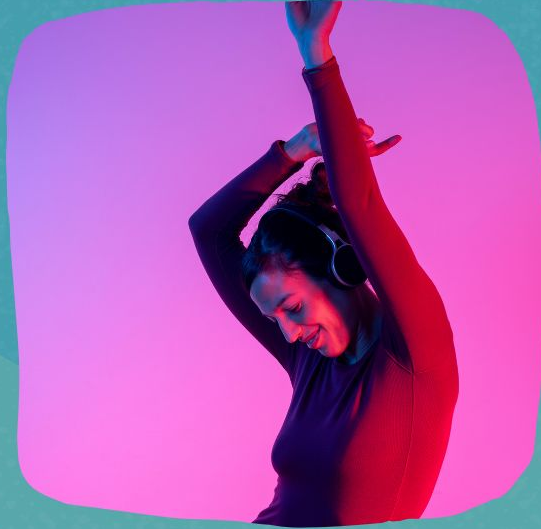
GREEN LIGHT



God Says “Move”

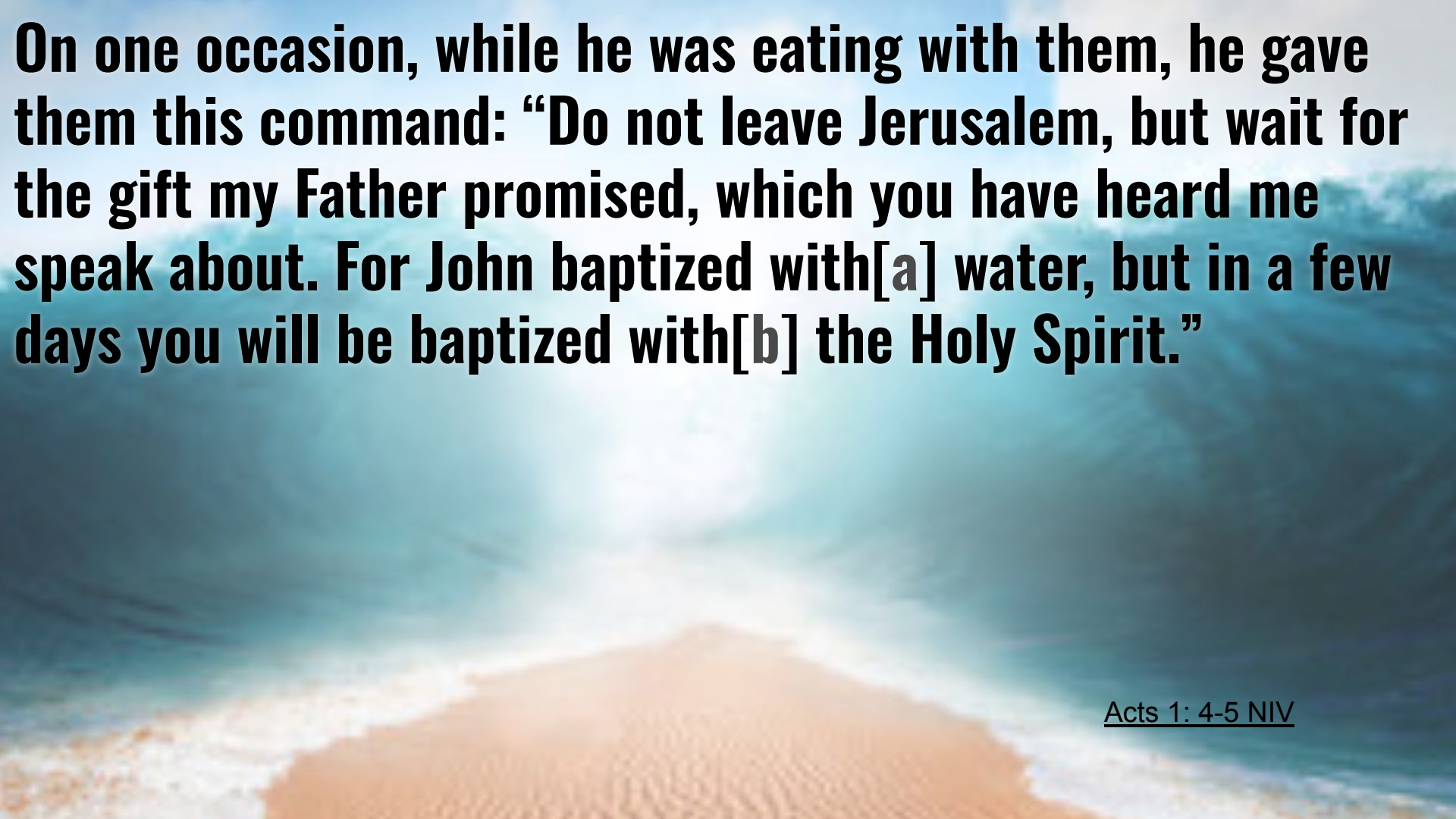
- ★ God told Saul to “GO”
- ★ Paul goes to Damascus
- ★ God tells Ananias to “GO”

START VIBIN'



God Says “Move”

- ★ God says move in different ways
- ★ Could be a change
 - Location, Job, Neighborhood
- ★ Could be within your context
 - New way of doing things
 - New relationships to build
- ★ God may say you are done with that part of your life



On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1: 4-5 NIV

God Says “Stay”

- ★ Jesus tells His disciples to “STAY” in Jerusalem
- ★ “Wait” for the coming of the Holy Spirit

CROCKPOT



Chill Out For A Minute

- ★ God might still be working in your context
- ★ Is God calling you to a new thing or do you just want to do a new thing?

Chill Out For A Minute

- ★ **God might be working inside of you**
- ★ **Slow down and let Him work**
- ★ **God might be preparing you**
- ★ **Sometimes learning is done by just being in God's midst and listening**

Wrap Up

- ★ Don't miss God's midst
- ★ Break down barriers between you and God
- ★ Pay attention if God is telling you to move or stay
- ★ Don't miss His midst

Audio file

[God's Glory Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

Spending an entire day with the person I'm kind of in the boat of both Kyle and Ryan. It seems like a long time, but it would be cool. I was trying to think the more like famous route and I didn't really come up with one person like Ryan's. Like, there's probably a lot, whether it's like celebrities or athletes, but then I kind of I hear where Alexanders come from. Like I really want to hang out with them or not. And like, I just want to kind of let them be. Who they are, but spending an entire day with somebody if you do that, especially since we've talked a lot about people, that you're in a relationship with or you know, you just get to be with them, you get to talk to them, listen to them, tell stories, joke, be in their presence, right, just be around them. That's what we're going to talk about today with God being in his presence constantly, because what he does today as we wrap up Exodus is he actually comes down and fills the Tabernacle with the people. Like his presence has always kind of been over them, but he really comes down today and he's just there in their midst with all the people. Now we have that with God. Today we can constantly be in God's presence and in God's. This, but what can happen when we have that constantly is we can kind of take it for granted or we can kind of look past it and miss it. So our punch line today is to not forget it. It's to don't miss the. Midst of God. Don't miss the mist of God. Be sure that you're always seeing him. You're always with him. You always know that he's working and that's kind of what we do as we conclude. Exodus today we will do a quick recap to get us kind of to the ending, where you gonna read some of the last verses of the book today but to get? Us caught up. The whole book happens because we have the Israelites, God's people, the people. God shows they are held captive in Egypt by Pharaoh. They're held as sly. And God's like this isn't cool. I want them out. So he calls Moses through the burning Bush story to say, hey, you're gonna lead my people out of Israel. So they go to Pharaoh. Moses and his brother Aaron to say like, as people go, Pharaoh naturally says no. So God said the 10 plagues ending with the plague of the first born. That's the 10th one where all the. First born Egyptian sons were killed. It is that this one that Pharaoh finally relents and says get out, get out of. Here and go. So the Israelites go, they're they're heading out there on a non direct route kind of being LED away and they come to the Red Sea where they seem like they're trapped Pharaohs. Army is closing in. God famously with Moses standing there with his staff parts, the Red Sea. The Israelites go across to safety as Pharaohs. Army comes to to come get him. He floods it back through and they all. Die so then now they're traveling some more through the desert, and it starts to get a little difficult. They don't have enough food. They don't have enough water. Things are busy and they struggle, and God has to show them how he is providing for them constantly. Then, as we keep going to a couple of weeks ago, God gives the 10 Commandments. These were given as God saying you are my chosen people. There are behaviors in which I would like you to have because I have saved you out of Egypt. So it's kind of a response in obedience to them. Well, they didn't do so well with all of those. As we learned last week, they made an idol which. Basically negates the first two Commandments God gave, saying don't have any goals before me and don't craft idols. They did it anyway, and we were reminded to not make idols before God to make sure that God is our priority. That's going to bring us today what's going to happen as we get there is throughout kind of the book and when Moses has been up the mountain with God,

God is giving him instructions as to how to build the Tabernacle. And there's a lot of instructions. If you read through kind. Of towards the. End of the book about how to. Do this what it should look like. And the whole idea that tabernacles God can come there and dwell and be with his people, it's a place where God can be in the midst of his people, and that's we're gonna pick it up today. We mean Exodus 40 starting with first 34. Sorry 4034. It'll be up here behind. It's mark there in your bookmarks to the table, we're going to start with just Exodus 40 versus 34 and 35 and read this to see what's. It says then the cloud covered the tent of meeting and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it and the. Glory of the. Lord filled the Tabernacle. We're gonna stop right there for. Now, so God's glory. Comes into the midst of people's glory is. This idea of importance of of greatness, of honor and splendor, and all of that, his glory fills the Tabernacle. So fills the Tabernacle, and there's this imagery of the cloud settling over the top of the cloud has been used many times to describe God's presence, and it kind of makes sense that people wanted a visual representation of God. That's part of what happened last week when they made idols. Like we want to see this God. So he comes down like the cloud is over the top and his glory fills the Tabernacle. So powerful, majestic. Moses can't even go into the tent near the Tabernac. Because it's the cloud is over because God is there and it's so powerful. Back in Exodus 33, we didn't read this, but Moses is up the mountain talking to God, and Moses actually ask God, can I see your glory and God kind of says, alright, my glory will pass in front of you. What I'm going to do is cover you with my hand. Then all you're going to see is. My back as I go by because you can't see. The face of God. That glory is so powerful, so radiant, and it's to the point where Moses comes back down the mountain. And the story says his face was radiant because he just saw the back. He saw that glimpse of the glory of God. That's what's now come down. And the big part here is that it came down. God is now with his people. He's there as king, as ruler, as leader right there in their midst. He's always wanted to be with them. And now he can because the Tabernacle has been completed. His rescue plan, which has been our theme throughout this book, is about bringing the people out of slavery and being able to rescue them to him. To be with him. So his presence comes and it's visible in the cloud, but it's also a full presence. There's other times where the glory of God is referred to as a consuming fire, and if you think about fire, it can be seen, but also felt you feel the heat or you hear the ***** in the heat and intensity. So God's glory is a presence and you can see it and feel it. Yeah, everything. Think about that level of greatness that you just you, you're there and it just takes you over. If you've ever been at a concert with somebody you you deem to be like one of the greatest guitar players or singers, or if you're at a sporting event where there's one of the greatest athletes and you feel like you can just feel that greatness or everything around, you just stops. Remember, being at a basketball game. Years ago with my buddy Jake in Milwaukee and we saw LeBron James play right in his prime and he came. And out and he's we watched and the whole arena just kind of stopped. People were there early and he came out to do his own warm up. And you see how big and how fast and the movement and the skill and the size everything just stopped because you wanted to be around it and take it in because you felt like, man, I'm in one of the presence and watching one of the greatest basketball players. So you. Could feel it in that stadium. So can we feel? God's presence and God's greatness. The answer is yes, because he is constantly in our myths. When we look at Ephesians 2, verses 11 through 13 says, therefore, remember that formally you who are gentiles by birth and called uncircumcised by those who call themselves the circumcision which is done in the body by human. Hands remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the Promise without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you who are once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Stop there. So

when God save the Israelites here in Exodus and he brings his presence, it was just to the Jewish people, right? There hadn't been this welcoming in of Gentiles yet, but. Jesus comes right. We're going to start an Advent series next week. It's all about the expectation in the coming of Jesus. So now because Jesus came, God's presence is for everyone. We're no longer separate from Christ. We have a citizenship with God, we are right with him and in his presence there are no barriers anymore that God has put up right. God is saying you have access to me. The only barriers that keep us from feeling God's presence are the barriers that we create for ourselves between us and him. So we want to break down those barriers, and I'm going to give us a few barriers that I know I've experienced in my life. Some of you have as well that maybe we put up. To keep us. From God's presence, the first one is disappointment. We can easily get disappointed about anything big or small. Right, it can be easy. Then when we're disappointed to put blame on someone or something and it can honestly, it easily goes to God whether we realize it or not. We say God let us down or we prayed for something that didn't come through. And we become disappointed in God. This creates A barrier between US and him. Maybe we don't want to pray as much and talk to him. We don't want to get in and read our Bibles. We don't want to be at church or come to our small groups or honestly just spend any time with God because we've put up this wall because we're disappointed in them. So we've created a distance that doesn't need to be there. Pain. Not so different from disappointment. Something hurts. We experience a loss or we end up in pain and we start thinking, why did God let this happen? That is one of the toughest questions Christians non Christians alike have to deal with is why. Why? Like you've God is so loving and gracious and powerful. Why did he let this happen? And that feeling creates A barrier between US and God. We get angry at him or we get disappointed in him because we hurt. But with these two, we have to remember is that God doesn't want us to be disappointed or. He didn't cause. The disappointment or hurt? We don't know why he didn't prevent it. That's not a question we get the answer, unfortunately. But what we do know. As he is with us during his presence, his midst doesn't go away when we are in the midst of struggle, we may try to isolate away from him, but he doesn't isolate away from us. He doesn't look down at us and say, whoa, they're in a bad way. I'm just going to back up and not be by them. Does the opposite. He wants us to be near to him in those times. So instead of putting up a barrier when disappointed or hurt, get closer to God. Feel that presence, and don't miss his midst. Third one is pride and this is a barrier in a little different way. The other two right disappointment and pain. It's kind of like when things are going poorly. Maybe, but pride is different some. Of those, really. Well, we achieve something. We want the credit for what goes right. Right. We did something. We're proud of it. We accomplished it. And there's nothing wrong with that. Nothing wrong to be proud of, something you accomplished. But remember God's role. God gave us direction. God's given us strength and wisdom to be able to keep going. Now, that's not taking away from anything you've done, but it's making sure that God's a part of it, like when we take all the credit, we remove God from. It creates A barrier between us and him because, like, we don't really need him make God part of your successes. Like make it a part of it, right? Like I'm a bro hugger. So I need to remember to give God a spiritual bro hug when things go right. Give him a high five fist. But it doesn't matter. Make him part of it. Don't make success or pride a barrier, because Jesus came, he died and he rose to remove those barriers. They don't need to be there, so don't create any of your own. And when we keep those barriers down, we can be constantly in his presence in his match, which is what he wants. And when we do that? And we keep ourselves in his midst, and he's in our midst when his glory is all around us, we can confidently allow him to lead us. That's we're gonna hear about next year and Exodus. Exodus 40:36 through 48. In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the Tabernacle, they would set out. But if the cloud didn't lift, they did not set

out until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was over the Tabernacle by day and fire was in the cloud by night in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels. So the Israeli journey isn't over yet. So the clouds there now it says when the cloud lifted, they moved, right. They were paying attention to it. They were paying attention to God and his presence. When he moved, they moved, right. Not they moved. And the cloud went with them. And that's important. It's God goes and they go with him. God is not the passenger riding shotgun to your driving. That's the driver with the map, and he knows every construction zone, parade route and Animal Crossing, right? God knows where we're going. So we move when he wants. Us to move. Then on the flip side. When he doesn't move the Israelite state, it says when the cloud didn't lift, they didn't move. They're still paying attention to God still paying attention to his presence, still knowing they need him. They know they need his presence. They don't want to go without him. They can't go without him. If he says stay or be still, they do. Right? So they go when he says go. This day, he says. Stay. It's like a game of red light, green light. Everybody familiar with the game? Red light, green light. I play this with the kids that I coach at soccer. Right. Kyle is there with me. We play red light, green light sometimes. So you say go when it's green light and stop when it's red. Right? We get this. The idea is for kids to learn to listen and observe. Right. And sometimes I try to get all tricky and I'll be like. I mean lightning, right? It's not light. It's lightning to try to make them pay attention. They're supposed to focus on the person calling the light colors and pay attention to it. Now. I thought about playing a church wide game of red light green light today, but I didn't know how well that would go over, so we're not going to do it. Maybe we will sometime alright, but the idea is this idea of starting and stopping when somebody tells you. To what does this look like for us, our game of red light, green light. Got right sometime. James, God says green light, God says move acts Chapter 9. I'm going to summarize a little bit here. It's the story of Saul before he becomes Paul, he's been persecuting Christians, killing Christians, wanting to arrest him. Not great for Christians. His letters from the synagogues to arrest more Christians. So he's on his way to Damascus and all of a sudden a bright light knocks him down. And Jesus speaks to him. And says. Go to Damascus and wait to be told what. Go to Damascus so Paul gets up. He's not blinded by this light. But he goes. To Damascus because God said go a little bit later in that same chapter, God speaks to duden. Ananias. He tells Ananias go to a house on Straight St. and ask for Saul from Tarsus. And and I was like, wait a minute. Really. Like this guy's been persecuting Christians. You might want to hurt me. This can't be right. God says go. He is my chosen instruments to bring my word to the Gentiles. God tells both of these men to move to go. It should be like his voice hits and they move. Think about if there is a song that comes on and I just can't help but start. Moving right, you start dancing, you start bobbing, you start vibing. I'm like this. I'm a Viber so I'm not full blown dancer, but the head kind of gets going, right, Ryan? I work at coffee shops and before I know what it's like. Writing and here we go. Or like that, my headphones are in. I have to look like a total idiot cause the headphones are in and I'm doing this and all of a sudden, like wow, there's like 40 people. In here looking at. Me, right. Like if old school songs like no Diggity, Blackstreet hits, I can't help but get going. Right. It comes on. I can't stop, but start vibing. That's the thing. If God says move, we better start vibing. OK, we should move when he wants us to. And this can take on a variety of contexts. It really can go and move can mean different things. It might mean a legit move, like a change. Maybe you have to go to a new city, a new neighborhood. A new job? We have to be willing to actually go in these situations and it's not always easy. Is it might take us away from comfort or from where we're happy, or where things have been good, but we remember and believe that God is leading us and we're not going alone. So it might mean. That kind of. Change that type of movement. It can also really mean moving within your current context. Maybe you're kind of in the same place at the same job, but. A little

different reach or things are gonna happen a little different way. You're going to talk to different people you come across, right? If you're still picking up your kids at the same school, you're going to talk to a different parent that you see.

Or if you're.

At work, you're going to talk to different people around the water cooler or sit with somebody. Different in the break room, but if we if we keep our eyes on the cloud and we keep feeling that fire of God's presence, we can know if it's time to move. Right, God may say move because he's telling you we're done with that part. Right. God saying? I'm. I'm. I'm finished with you doing that part. We're going to go on to something else. God's ready to move forward? Recently there were the the CMA Awards, the Country Music Awards. There's an artist named Jelly Roll. Great name. Who? Won an award and he had a quote that said. The windshield is bigger than the rear view mirror for a reason, because what's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind you now. He's talking about his own life, and he's got a crazy life story. But think about for us what this could mean. If that windshield is bigger now, it doesn't mean the past doesn't matter, right? We have mirrors to see behind us when. We need to, but with God, we're looking through that windshield and we're going when he wants us to go and seeing the big picture of maybe where he wants us. To go next. So don't miss God's movement if he's moving. But again, it's God's movement. We can't make him move, though. Remember, if the cloud lifts, that's when the Israelites moved. But if it stayed. They say that's an if because God is doing the leading and sometimes God says stay acts chapter one verses 4:00 and 5:00. On one occasion while he was eating with them. This is Jesus eating with the disciples. He gave them this command. Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my father promised. Which you have heard me speak about. For John, baptize with water. But in a few days you'll be baptized with the Holy Spirit. All right, so at this point, Jesus has died and risen hasn't yet finally ascended to heaven, and he goes to hang out with the disciples. And he says don't leave Jerusalem, stay here and wait for the gift. My father has promised in a few days, you'll be baptized in the Holy Spirit. So they're there to wait. For a few days, until the Holy Spirit comes right. If you're familiar or not with acts, this eventually happens. The Holy Spirit comes and we have acts Chapter 2, and we have Pentecost. But the point is, Jesus says just wait. Just chill out. Just stay there for a bit. Let things just sit. Who here in any sort of cooking has ever used a crock pot? Anybody. Most right? Most at least familiar with the crockpot, right? The idea buying a crockpot is you turn it on and just let the food sit there all day and let it cook for a while and it's great. You can have something ready later in the day I made pulled pork this week. On Thursday one of my favorites. Right. So get it all set. Put the seasonings and the liquid in right there and. You turn on and you go. Just let it go. Let it sit and two things. Going to happen the outside starts to take on all those really nice BBQ flavors I put in and the inside starts to get cooked all the way through. So the pork's not moving. I'm not. You're getting a pan. I'm putting it somewhere else and doing all these things with it. It just needs to. Sit in the crockpot for a little while. Sometimes that's what's happens with us and God, we just need to stay in our crockpot and let God do his thing. Because God's not always telling us to go or to do something different, God's always moving. God's always active. But we're not always supposed to go and change. He might still be working in whatever context you're in. Your location, your job, your situation, whatever it is, he's still doing his thing. Maybe he is not done yet. There's a phrase that gets. Kicked around a lot within, especially in a lot of like pastors, conferences and ministry conferences, and it's a good one, but it gets kicked around and it's the phrase God is doing a new thing. I think I've heard this at a lot of conference. Now it's a good phrase and what it's meant to do is like, energize and reinvigorate us, and it can totally

be true. But we have to be sure it's what he's doing for us. Is God actually calling you 2 new thing, or do you just wanna do a new thing and those are different? It's not always time to move because you may just need to keep. Doing what you're doing. God might be saying stay because he's going to do something inside of you. He's working in you. He's going to move inside of you, so he needs you to. Be still and to wait. On the outside. There's something in your heart that he wants to do. Maybe it's healing. Maybe you're stressed or overworked. You've been hurt and needs you to just sit still and rest so he can bring you that rest and healing so slow down and let him do it. He might also be preparing you for what's next. You need to stop and be still to let him grow you, to let him teach you to let him prepare you for that. Right. We can always be learning and growing with God, and sometimes it's learning by doing. But many times it's by just stopping and listening and being in that glorious midst of God and seeing. What he wants to teach us. Sometimes God just says stay. And we can know that we can know if God says stay or we can know if God says move by being in his presence and staying in his midst. So don't miss the midst of God. We have total access to God, right. Jesus came and removed the barriers. Don't have to have barriers between us and God. So if you feel like you have them. Work to break those down between you and God. Don't keep yourself from God. When those barriers are down, pay attention to. Is he saying move or go like is it time to start vibing to God's voice then start moving? Or is he telling you to stay for any reason to stay just in that crockpot and let him do his thing? Just pay attention to him. Stay in his presence and don't miss being in his midst. Let's pray. God, thank you for today, God, for this whole book of Exodus that we've been able to dive into for the last number of weeks here. Just hear your story about how you you rescued your people. And God, I thank you that, that, that you're the same guy that rescued them. You're the same guy that rescues us. And got through this that your presence is here. As we learned today that we always have access to being with you. That no matter what we can be with you. So I pray that we would be people that remove any of the barriers that we've set up between you and us. If it's pain, disappointment, pride or anything else. That we would spend some time with you and and and remove those. I also pray that we would just be really aware of what you're doing. We'd be focused on you, so we would know if you're saying moved, know if you're saying stay just to know what you want us to do. God, I thank you that we can be that close to you that we. Can see and hear from you God. Thank you. Your name.