

Week Five: *Explore the New*
Exodus 40:1-2, 17, 34-38

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. How do you view change? Are you someone who welcomes change and thrives on it, someone who resists change and feels it's a challenge, or somewhere in the middle?
2. Read Exodus 40:1-2. What new thing did God have Moses do?
3. Exodus 40:3-16 details all that Moses was to complete in setting up the tabernacle. Read verse 17. What did Moses do?
4. How does Moses' obedience challenge you? How does his obedience comfort you?
5. As you end your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to prepare you for a new thing – whatever that new thing might be. Ask God to help you be obedient and open as he leads you to the new opportunity.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

6. How quickly do you adapt to change? Are you an early adapter, someone who waits for others to adapt and sees how it plays out for others, or someone who will not make a change until forced to?
7. Read Exodus 40:34. What happened after the Tent of Meeting (tabernacle) was set up?
8. How do you think the people of Israel responded when they saw the glory of the Lord filling the tent? How would you have responded?
9. The glory of the Lord filling the tent signified that God was making his dwelling place among his people. He was physically showing them that he was with them. What does it mean to you knowing God is with you? How does that change your outlook on change?
10. Finish your FIFTEEN by thanking God for his presence in your life. If you are questioning the presence of God with his people today, read Matthew 28:18-20. Ask God for grace in making changes and for eyes to see new opportunities.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

11. Think about a change that you were not excited to make. How has God used that change to bless you or others? (For example, consider how life has changed since March 2020 in light of Romans 8:28. How has God used COVID-19 for

the good of those who love him?)

12. At the end of Exodus, Moses is prepared to lead God's people towards the Promised Land. Skim Exodus 3 and 4. List Moses' initial responses to God's call to something new and God's responses.
13. Was Moses excited about the new thing that God was calling him to do? Why or why not?
14. Skim the remaining chapters in Exodus. List the ways you see God acting on behalf of his people. What would Moses have missed if he rejected God's invitation to him in Exodus 3?
15. Read Exodus 3:14-22. What did God promise to do to for his people as he freed them from Egypt? See Exodus 7:14-Exodus 11:1-2. Did God do as he promised?
16. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to soften your heart as he did Moses'. Ask him to prepare you to do a new thing – whether the new thing happens this week or in the weeks to come.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

17. When God told Moses about establishing a tabernacle in Exodus 40, it was a new concept for Israel. Why would God want Israel to have a tabernacle?
18. Look up the meaning of tabernacle as a verb. Read John 1:14. How is John connecting Jesus (the Word) to the Tent of Meeting in Exodus 40? Why would the gospel writer John want you to make that connection?
19. Read Hebrews 9:1-10. At the writing of Hebrews, the tabernacle had been replaced by the temple, which served the same purpose as the tabernacle and was similar in design...except it wasn't mobile and it was much fancier. Reread verse 9. Why would the gifts and sacrifices not be enough to clear the conscience of God's people? Who would lead in a new order mentioned in verse 10? How would Jesus do that? (See Hebrews 9:11-28.)
20. Take a tour of the Tent of Meeting (7 minutes). List all of the ways that Jesus fulfills the roles of different parts of the tabernacle. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgqLsnzG6gM>
21. Before you end your FIFTEEN, thank God for Jesus – for his fulfillment of what the law could not do for us and for what we could not do for ourselves (make us perfect – Hebrews 10:1-2).

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

22. New things can be as big as new jobs and moving to a new location or as small as trying a new recipe or visiting a

different park in town. What is a new thing that you have considered doing?

23. Consider the arc of the sermons over the last month. Have you grieved your losses? Changes happen all the time. What loss have you recognized? What loss have you ignored? How can you grieve those losses well?

24. Read Romans 12:2. Ask God to remind you of how he has renewed your mind and what he would have you focus on. Is it a new habit, a new friendship, a deeper relationship with him?

25. Reflect on those God has surrounded you with. Thank him for the people who are part of your life or pray for opportunities to add more people to your circle.

26. As God has added things to your life, what are things that you want to let go of? Are there attitudes or mindsets that you don't want to carry forward? Are there patterns of thinking which are not helpful to you? Ask God for the strength to recognize them and reshape them and thank him for the grace which allows you to practice letting them go daily. Read Luke 9:23. Reflect on the idea of daily picking up the cross. We need Jesus to cover our sins daily, hourly, minute by minute. When you find yourself repeating patterns and habits, lay them down with Jesus and pick up his cross instead.

27. As you finish your final FIFTEEN this week, thank God for Jesus again. He is the fulfillment of every promise God has made. And because of his love for us, we can do all things. Write Philippians 4:13 on a card and leave it in a prominent place. Read it and recite it during the week.