***The Living Temple***

**Worship Series – Week 1**

***The Wilderness Tabernacle***

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin. |

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

*One thing I ask from the LORD,
   this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
   all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
   and to seek him in his temple.*

*For in the day of trouble
   he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
   and set me high upon a rock.*

*Then my head will be exalted
   above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
   I will sing and make music to the LORD.* (Psalm 27:4-6, NIV)

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| **HC#51 – Come Into His Presence** | HC-51 | HCD4-T11 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#93 – Holy, Holy, Holy, (Nicaea)** | HC-93 | HCD8-T13 |
| **SB#964 – Lead on, O King eternal** | TB-223 – same | HTD8-T10 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#2 – All creatures of our God and King** | TB-43 – St. Francis | HTD2-T15 (3 vs.) |
| **HC#195 – Hear Our Praises** | HC-195 | HCD18-T15 |
| **HC#146 – Here I am to Worship** | HC-146 | HCD13-T16 |
| **HC#124 – Come, Now is the Time to Worship** | HC-124 | HCD11-T14 |
| **HC#113 – You’re Worthy of My Praise** | HC-113 | HCD10-T13 |
| **HC#111 – Cry of My Heart** | HC-111 | HCD10-T11 |
| **HC#221 – Servants of God**  | HC-221 | HCD21 – T11 |
| **HC#231 – Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**  | HC-231 | HCD22– T11 |
| **HC#232 – Ancient of Days**  | HC-232 | HCD22 – T12 |
| **HC#251 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**  | HC-251 | HCD24 – T11 |
| **HC#261 – How firm a foundation** | HC-261 | HCD25-T11 |
| **HC#264 – Jesus shall reign** | HC-264 | HCD25-T14 |

***“Bring Me an Offering”***

**Leader:** God chose the people of Israel to be a peculiar people to himself, above all people, and he himself would be their King. He ordered a royal palace to be set up among them for himself, called a sanctuary, or holy place. There he showed his presence among them. And because in the wilderness they dwelt in tents, this royal palace was ordered to be a tabernacle, that it might move with them.

**All:** *The LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give.*

**Leader:** The people were to furnish Moses with the materials, by their own free will.

**All:** *“These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.*

**Leader:** The best use we can make of our worldly wealth is to honor God with it. What is laid out in the service of God must be done by his direction.

**All:** *“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”*

(Exodus 25:1-8, NIV)

**Leader:** The dream of men was that God should dwell in their midst. In one sense the tabernacle was to be a palace, the royal residence of the King of Israel, in which he was to dwell among his people, receive their petitions, and issue his responses. But it was also to be a place of worship, in which God was to record his name and to enshrine the mystic symbols of his presence.

 (Adapted from *Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary*)

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| **HC#164 – Before the Throne of God Above** | HC-164 | HCD15-T14 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#168 – Offering** | HC-168 | HCD15-T18 |
| **HC#49 – Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord** | HC-49 | HCD3-T19 |
| **HC#175 – The Heart of Worship** | HC-175 | HCD16-T15 |
| **HC#58 – Praise You** | HC-58 | HCD4-T18 |
| **SB#12 – Eternal God, unchanging** | TB-213 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#361 – Fill thou my life, O Lord my God** | TB-127 – Ellacombe | HTD1-T9 (3 vs. – band ending) |
| **SB#39/HC#121 – Joyful, Joyful** | TB-367 – EuropeHC-121 | HTD3-T11 (4 vs.)HCD11-T11 |
| **SB#52 – O worship the King** | TB-479 – Hanover | HTD4-T4 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#391/HC#171 – Stand up and bless the Lord** | TB-149 – Falcon StreetHC-171 | HTD3-T12 (3 vs.)HCD16-T11 |
| **HC#191 – Be Thou My Vision** | HC-191 | HCD18-T11 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **HC#208 – Faithful God** | HC-208 | HCD19-T18 |
| **HC#213 – In the presence of Jehovah**  | HC-213 | HCD20-T13 |
| **HC#214 – By faith**  | HC-214 | HCD20-T14 |
| **HC#219 – King of kings, majesty**  | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#228 – Still**  | HC-228 | HCD21-T18 |
| **HC#242 – In your presence**  | HC-242 | HCD23-T12 |

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| **Drama – The God Next Door** |

***A Willing Heart***

**Responsive Scripture:**

**Leader:** The Israelites tithed because God told them to. They gave above and beyond in voluntary offerings because they *wanted* to.

**All:** *Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the LORD has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the LORD.* ***Everyone who is willing*** *is to bring to the LORD an offering. All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded.”* (Exodus 35:4-10, NIV)

**Leader:** When the community of saints contributed to building the tabernacle, the words “willing” and “freewill” were continuously emphasized. Everyone “whose heart moved him” gave. No one was commanded to give to the tabernacle. They gave to this worthy one-time need because they wanted to, because their hearts were moved by God.

**All:** *Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, and* ***everyone who was willing*** *and* ***whose heart moved them*** *came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments.*

**Leader: *All who were willing****, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it.*

**All:** *Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. And all the women* ***who were willing*** *and had the skill spun the goat hair.*

**Leader:** *The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.*

**All:** *All the Israelite men and women* ***who were willing*** *brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.*

(Exodus 35:20-29, NIV)

**Leader:** Notice the phrase, ***“who were willing.”*** The emphasis here is not on the amount of the offering or the cause for it, but the willingness of each person’s heart. It wasn’t a tithe, but giving entirely above and beyond it. It wasn’t mandatory giving, but voluntary. It involved the joy of a heart touched by God’s grace.

(*Money, Possessions and Eternity,* pages 201, 319)

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| **HC#49 – Be Still for the Presence of the Lord** | HC-49 | HCD3-T19 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#142 – All for Thee** | HC-142 | HCD13-T12 |
| **HC#66 – The Power of Your Love** | HC-66 | HCD5-T16 |
| **SB#632 – What shall I render to my God** | TB-70 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#58 – Praise You** | HC-58 | HCD4-T18 |
| **HC#623 – Take My Life/I Am Yours** | HC-196 | HCD18-T16 |
| **SB#25 – God’s love to me is wonderful** | TB-130 – We’d better bide a wee | No CD |
| **SB#631 – What shall I do my God to love** | TB-70 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#191 – Be Thou My Vision** | HC-191 | HCD18-T11 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **HC#208 – Faithful God** | HC-208 | HCD19-T18 |
| **HC#213 – In the presence of Jehovah**  | HC-213 | HCD20-T13 |
| **HC#219 – King of kings, majesty**  | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#228 – Still**  | HC-228 | HCD21-T18 |
| **HC#242 – In your presence**  | HC-242 | HCD23-T12 |

**Tithes and Offerings**

***“I Will Dwell With Them”***

 **Leader:** *Exodus 40:33-34 says: Moses erected the court all around the tabernacle and the*

 *altar, and hung up the veil for the gateway of the court. Thus Moses finished the*

 *work. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled*

 *the tabernacle.* (Exodus 40:33-34, NASB)

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| **HC#199 – I Stand in Awe** | HC-199 | HCD18-T19 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#126 – My Desire**  | HC-126 | HCD11-T16 |
| **HC#89 – Knowing You** | HC-89 | HCD7-T19 |
| **HC#186 – When I Look into Your Holiness** | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |
| **HC#191 – Be Thou My Vision** | HC-191 | HCD18-T11 |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **HC#208 – Faithful God** | HC-208 | HCD19-T18 |
| **HC#213 – In the presence of Jehovah**  | HC-213 | HCD20-T13 |
| **HC#219 – King of kings, majesty**  | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#228 – Still**  | HC-228 | HCD21-T18 |
| **HC#242 – In your presence**  | HC-242 | HCD23-T12 |

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Message – Let’s Build Something Together**

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| **HC#7/SB#975 – Spirit of God, Descend** | HC-7 | HCD1a-T17 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#156 – Enter In** | HC-156 | HCD14-T16 |
| **HC#173 – In This Quiet Moment** | HC-173 | HCD16-T13 |
| **HC#160 – I Surrender** | HC-160 | HCD14-T20 |
| **HC#87 – Passion** | HC-87 | HCD7-T17 |
| **HC#77 – Change My Heart, O God** | HC-77 | HCD6-T17 |
| **HC#47 – As the Deer** | HC-47 | HCD3-T17 |
| **SB#25 – God’s love to me is wonderful** | TB-130 – We’d better bide a wee | No CD |
| **SB#631 – What shall I do my God to love** | TB-70 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#632 – What shall I render to my God** | TB-70 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#205 – Closer Still** | HC-205 | HCD19-T15 |
| **HC#213 – In the presence of Jehovah**  | HC-213 | HCD20-T13 |
| **HC#219 – King of kings, majesty**  | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#228 – Still**  | HC-228 | HCD21-T18 |
| **HC#247 – Still, my soul, be still**  | HC-247 | HCD23-T17 |
| **HC#242 – In your presence**  | HC-242 | HCD23-T12 |
| **HC#279 – Draw me nearer** | HC-279 | HCD26-T19  |

**Benediction: (Congregation in unison)**

*One thing I ask from the LORD,
   this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
   all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
   and to seek him in his temple.* (Psalm 27:4, NIV)

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| **HC#109 – Total Praise** | HC-109 | HCD9-T19 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#76 – Shout to the Lord** | HC-76 | HCD6-T16 |
| **HC#273 – In the sanctuary** | HC-273 | HCD26-T13 |
| **SB#279 – To God be the glory** | TB-576 – same | HTD6-T21 (3 vs.) |

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| **Week #1** |
| **DRAMA****The God Next Door****By Joe Caddy**© Copyright 2011 by Joe Caddy. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |
| **Topic:** | Stewardship; Tithing; |
| **Scripture:** | Exodus 25:1-8; 31:1-11 |
| **Synopsis:** | God gives a somewhat bewildered Moses instructions on how the Wilderness Tabernacle should be constructed. |
| **Characters:** | God – (offstage voice) Creator of the universeMoses – Reluctant leader of the Israelites |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Biblical; Chisel & tablets for Moses (optional) |
| **Setting:** | Bare stage. |
| **Running time:** | 5-6 minutes |

[*Moses enters. He speaks directly to God addressing Him as if He were located somewhere over the heads of the congregation.* ]

Moses: Well….

God: Well, what?

Moses: You were right.

God: You sound surprised.

Moses: I guess I shouldn’t be, really. I mean you did just deliver us all from Egypt and basically wiped out the entire Egyptian army in the process. I don’t know if they’re just incredibly in awe of you or just plain scared to death of you, but there shouldn’t be any Israelite down there who wouldn’t listen to anything you had to say right now.

God: Good. Because I’ve got another task for you. Another message for you to deliver.

Moses: [*nervously*] Oh boy.

God: Pardon?

Moses: I mean, I just got done basically laying down the law on everything from murder and adultery to rules about personal property and what they can eat.

God: And so?

Moses: Don’t you think it’s a little soon to be asking for more?

God: That’s the point. There’s something else that I’m going to need from all of them.

Moses: [*To himself*] Oh great, he’s going to make us give up chocolate.

God: No, I wouldn’t do that…

Moses: How did you hear that?

God: [*Clears throat*]

Moses: Oh yeah.

God: Anyway, as much as I appreciate our recent mountaintop chats, Moses, I’m going to be changing things up a little. I need a change of scenery.

Moses: You’re leaving? [*Frustrated*] But I just built an altar here…like you instructed us to…with 12 stone pillars; one for each of the tribes.

God: It’s very nice.

Moses: And we made a sacrifice to you there. Remember?

God: Oh yes, I remember. But do you remember what it was for?

Moses: Of course! It was to seal the covenant between us and you, the LORD. That you would be our God and we would be your people.

God: Exactly.

Moses: So why are you going to move?

God: Because you’re going to move…and people shouldn’t be too far from their God.

Moses: Oh.

God: You know that where you are now is not where I intend for you to be. Where you are going and how you are going to get there are still in my control…

Moses: I understand that part.

God: …but you will need me there to guide you. Moses, I want you to have my people make a sanctuary for me and I will dwell among them. You will build a tabernacle for my presence and you will take it with you wherever you go. This will be a place for the people to come and sacrifice and worship in my presence.

Moses: Whoa, whoa ,whoa. They were surprisingly cool with all of the laws but I think now they are just going to flip out. They send me up here to talk to you because they couldn’t even handle the cloud with all of the thunder and lightning and stuff…and now they’re just going to waltz in to visit you now that you’re in the tent next door?

God: Well, not exactly.

Moses: What have you got in mind?

God: I want you to make a tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

Moses: I should have known that you’d have something specific in mind.

God: First of all, here’s what you’ll need to gather from the Israelites:

Moses: Whoa, hold on! Let me grab a chisel.

God: Gold, silver and bronze. Blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen…

Moses: Okay…

God: Acacia wood, goat hair, ram skins dyed red and dolphin skins…

Moses: Dolphin skins?

God: Shall I continue?

Moses: There’s more?

God: Olive oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

Moses: Wow. That’s quite a collection. Where are we supposed to get all of this stuff?

God: Oh, Moses. You already have it…it’s just not all in the same place yet.

Moses: I don’t follow.

God: I want you to take up an offering from the people.

Moses: Oh, this is not going to be good. Lord, with all due respect, the people have been very patient and very flexible recently but I’m just not seeing how I’m going to get all of this stuff without some sort of coercion or monetary compensation. And you’ve made it very clear that stealing is off the table.

God: [*Sighs*]

Moses: [*Thinking aloud somewhat neurotically*] I might even have to trick them. [*Gradually talking himself into it*] With some of them it wouldn’t be that difficult, really.

God: It won’t come to that.

Moses: [*Skeptical*] I don’t know. Am I just supposed to walk from tent to tent and say “the Lord needs your gold” and people will be chasing me down the street trying to get me to take their acacia wood? These are tough times. We’ve just come out of years of captivity. Not too many will even have extra olive oil and I don’t know of ANYONE who’s got a dolphin skin just laying around the tent waiting for someone to ask for it…

God: Are you done?

Moses: God, I just don’t feel comfortable asking for people to give in times like this. We’re all just trying to survive.

God: Moses, have some faith. I understand that people cannot give what they do not have.

Moses: What would you like me to do, Lord?

God: You are to receive the offering for me from everyone *whose heart prompts them to give*. I am more concerned about the condition of their hearts than the collection of their possessions. Everything that is collected must be done so willingly, understood?

Moses: Yes, Lord. Then what? How am I going to build this thing?

God: Oh, no…not you. I have chosen Bezalel and Oholiab to oversee the crafting of my Tabernacle. They will lead a team of skilled workers to make all of these things as I have commanded you. You just get the materials.

Moses: Yes, my Lord.

God: And Moses [*Pause*] do *make* sure to stop in and see me once in a while.

Moses: Of course…neighbor.

 [*Moses exits. Blackout.*]

***The Living Temple***

**Worship Series Sermon – Week 1**

***Let’s Build Something Together***

**Text:** Exodus 25:1-8 (all scripture references NIV unless otherwise stated)

On any given Saturday at any of the “big box” home improvement stores, you can attend a workshop to learn how to build something. Perhaps you want to build a deck or tile a bathroom. Maybe you want to learn how to install a wood floor. Their knowledgeable employees will show you everything you need to get the job done, and will teach you the best way to do it. They make it look so easy and inspire you to immediately run home and begin the project. There is nothing like a good project to give you a great sense of accomplishment. It’s even better if you have some people helping you build. In fact, the Lowe’s home improvement centers use the slogan, “Let’s Build Something Together.”

Do you remember any building projects in the Bible? First, there was Noah’s construction project, then the Tower of Babel. But the building project we are talking about today happened after 400 years of slavery. Once he led them through the Red Sea and into the wilderness, the Lord wanted the Israelites to build something.

God had led his children out of bondage. Moses told King Pharaoh, “Let My People Go,” and eventually, the children of Israel were driven out of Egypt. But even though this massive family left abuse and slavery in Egypt, God realized that there was a lot of Egypt still in them; their culture, their materialism, but most importantly, their worship.

The Hebrew children were no strangers to building things. They were part of Pharaoh’s master plan of pyramids and buildings for Egypt, having to make bricks without straw. But Pharaoh saw the Hebrews as just tools to get the job done. He didn’t care about them – he only cared about the finished product.

But now, God wanted them to build something different. And this time, he wanted to partner with him, leading the job as a father works with his children. But they had to relearn the building process.

God knew that he had to send his children back to school, not to learn the ABCs and 123s but to learn how to worship him and him alone.

In fact, God wants to dwell among us. He wanted to walk with Moses. He wanted his children in the wilderness to have a place to meet him. And he wants the same thing for us today. God wants to dwell among us.

And to help us along the way, he offers his partnership. He wants to work with us in order to create a place of worship. He wants to give us not only his presence. He wants to provide the resources and the willingness necessary for us to have a relationship with him and to worship him.

In a sense, God has a home improvement center. He gives us the same invitation, “Let’s Build Something Together.” Let’s take a closer look at the building instructions to see what he wants to accomplish and how he offers to work with us.

First, we see that God invites us to partner with him. (verse 2a) Exodus 25 starts, “The LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering.” We see a little later what God is up to, but his invitation is clear. He asks for an offering.

Every Sunday as we worship together, we have the opportunity to give an offering. Sometimes it is in the offering plate. Sometimes it is opening up a Sunday School book and teaching a class. Sometimes it is giving a word of welcome to a visitor.

But God doesn’t take the offering from us, does he? He leaves the decision, the commitment to respond, with us. We have a choice as to whether we give or not.

Maybe you have had the experience of saying “No.” You have seen the offering plate pass, even held it on the way through your row, tightened your lips and sent it on to the next person, avoiding eye contact with the usher waiting for the plate at the end of the row.

Some feel they don’t have enough to give. Some are just content coming to church and not giving. Let me take a moment and let you off the hook. You don’t have to give. That’s why they call it an offering. You give when you want to give.

The invitation is given. And an answer is given. “Yes” or “no.”

In our Scripture passage, God gives a similar invitation to his people. He is giving them the opportunity to get involved in something bigger than themselves. He is giving them a chance to participate in something incredible. He asks them, “Let’s Build Something Together.”

Do you feel God inviting you to participate in what he is doing in this congregation? Do you sense him calling you to jump in on what he wants to do in your world?

How will you answer him?

So God invites us to partner with him. Next, we find out what this partnership looks like.

Second, God is looking for those with willing hearts (verse 2b). The next instruction God gives Moses is, “You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give.”

God wanted them to build something, but he didn’t want his people to give reluctantly. He wanted those with willing hearts to give. In one Bible translation, God tells Moses to “raise a contribution for me, from every man whose heart moves him.” (NASB)

Have you ever felt your heart move? Have you ever felt the desire to get involved in something important? That’s what it means to have your heart move you.

As God was getting ready to partner with his people, he was also working on their hearts.

Although the Bible doesn’t specifically say it, it suggests that maybe there were people whose hearts didn’t move them. They shut themselves off to the way God wanted to lead them, and they were content to stand aside and watch as others took up the challenge and gave. Some watched as bystanders, while others followed their hearts and got involved.

A great Christian speaker was asked to preach at a women’s conference. Before the president of the conference introduced him as their guest speaker, she read a very moving letter from a missionary who was calling out for help in response to a great need on the mission field that required a sum of $4,000.00.

The president of the conference then turned to the preacher and asked him if he would pray that God would provide the resources to meet this need! The preacher was very outspoken, and said, “No! I won’t pray for the need to be met. I believe that God has already provided the resources, and all we have to do is give. Then, he challenged each woman in the room to follow his lead, and put every bit of cash they had with them on the table.

To make a long story, short, the result was that more than the $4,000.00 needed was given.

I wonder what we could accomplish as a congregation, as an Army, if each person who had a willing heart gave. Perhaps you are reluctant because you can’t give as much as someone else can. Maybe you don’t feel like what you have to give can make a difference. Or you think that others are giving enough so that you don’t have to.

But just as God gave an invitation to his people in the wilderness, he invites us to get involved. “Let’s Build Something Together,” he asks us. Do you have a willing heart? Is God moving you to give?

Once God gives an opportunity to give and has our willingness to give, he reveals his ultimate purpose behind the gifts. He wants to work with us. He wants to work together to create a way for him to establish and develop a relationship with us.

Third, God wants to live among his people (verse 8). Take a look at verse 8 of our passage. After he outlines the types of offerings he wants from his people, he gives them the next instruction. He tells Moses, “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”

God is revealing his ultimate purpose. The offering, the willing hearts – they aren’t the end of the process. He wants to live with us. He wants to be a part of our lives. And he wants us to participate in making it a reality.

Do you believe that God wants to be a part of your life? Do you believe that God wants to make a difference in our corps, your family, and our world? Just like he did with Moses, he wants to dwell with us and to be a part of our lives.

What kind of change would happen in your live if you let God inside? What kind of Salvation Army would we have if we allowed God to come and bless us with his presence?

What kind of Army would we have if we didn’t invite God to be a part of what we do?

God wants to dwell among us. In fact, he wants to lead us, and to show us how to live. And to make that happen, we must build a sanctuary for him.

Over the next few weeks, we will talk about what this sanctuary will look like. We will talk about how it will be built and where the resources will come from.

But today, God is giving us an invitation. It’s an invitation to bring an offering. It’s an invitation to respond out of willing hearts.

Maybe like the Israelites, we’ve been in slavery too long. God brought us out, but it’s time to change who we are on the inside. And just like he did for Moses and his wilderness-wandering cousins, he wants to dwell among us. But he is waiting for us to respond to his invitation. He wants us to bring him an offering. He wants us to have willing hearts. And he wants us to build a sanctuary for him.

You might hear God inviting you, saying “Let’s Build Something Together.” Maybe you are hearing that invitation for the first time. Is God asking you to bring him an offering? Is he looking in your heart for some willingness to partner with him? Is he asking you to build him a sanctuary, a place for him to meet with you and others?

It’s a wonderful invitation, not just to get involved, but also to allow God to change us from the inside out. Is there part of you that lives like a slave? God invites you to be his child. He isn’t looking for your service as much as he’s looking for a deeper relationship with you.

Are you ready to build something with God? He just wants us to be willing to give ourselves, and he will come and dwell with us. Are you ready to become God’s sanctuary? God says, “Let’s Build Something Together.” Will you accept his invitation?