

# God Delivers



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church

Week 7: February 11–17, 2017

# Day 1

February 13



*Pray | Praise God for his provision in your life.*

CHEERFUL GIVING IS a sign of trust in God’s provision.

God’s plan for establishing Israel as a nation is moving rapidly forward. They now have a large population, laws, and a land to which they are heading. This nation will be distinct from all others because it will be a nation whose king is the God of the universe. To begin to make that real, God directs the children of Israel to build a tabernacle, or sanctuary, a “holy place” where God himself can live among them.

Rather than providing the resources to build the tabernacle, God directs that the resources are to be collected from the people—not forcibly, but as each person’s heart moves him or her to give. God does not need their “stuff” (it all came from him anyway). He wants their hearts and to be the focus of all they do. That same unchanging God wants the same from his followers today. We are called to live in true dependence on God, cheerfully and generously using his gifts to us to bring focus, praise, and glory to him.



*Read | Exodus 25:1–9*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

What things or people in your life would be most difficult to give up for God's greater glory? Why?

Do you believe that everything you have and everything you are came from God? How does that impact your day-to-day living?

How can you make your dependence on God and cheerful giving contagious?

## Day 2

February 14



*Pray / Ask God to make his presence more evident in your life.*

AS OUR LOVING FATHER, God longs to be among us.

God initiated the creation of the tabernacle for the express purpose of dwelling among his people (Exodus 25:8). The God of the universe really didn't need a tabernacle or even a dwelling, so why all the elaborate planning and effort? God knows his creation well. He knows how important and precious his presence is for our well-being. His great love for us demands that he be present with his people. Throughout the story of God, the presence of God has been associated with success and alignment with God's purposes: God's presence with the children of Israel, Jesus' presence on earth for thirty-plus years, and ultimately the presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all believers. Our challenge is to translate the great gift of God's presence in our lives into lives that are salt and light in our world, letting God's presence differentiate us from the world and drawing others to him.



*Read / Exodus 25:1–9*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

When is God's presence most real in your life? Take a moment to reflect on what it is about that situation that makes you more aware of God's presence. How can you bring the reality of God's presence into more aspects of your life?

John 1:14 tells us, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Why was it so important for Jesus to dwell among us?

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, do the people you interact with each day know the Holy Spirit dwells within you? If you are not a follower of Jesus Christ, perhaps you've encountered someone filled with the Holy Spirit, and their influence is drawing you toward God. If that's the case, please know that God loves you and wants to be present in your life as well, regardless of your past. Call out to him today.

# Day 3

February 15



*Pray / Thank God for unique gifts and challenges he's given you.*

GOD ACHIEVES HIS plan through his people

Exodus 25–38 records, in amazing detail, the directions God gave the Israelites for construction of the tabernacle and the work the Israelites did to complete the construction. This story reflects a major theme we see throughout the story of God. The Bible is filled with stories of God's providing resources and a plan and then putting the execution of his plan in the hands of humans. What is God thinking? God created perfect humans in his own image. But our fall into sin created a wall of separation between us and God. Ever since that fall, God has been executing a plan to bring his entire creation back to perfection. For humans, that return to perfection begins when we set aside our sinful nature and submit to God's nature. The tasks that God gives us are for one purpose: to break down that wall of separation both for us and for those around us.



*Read / Exodus 39:32–42*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Consider the tasks or challenges that God is putting in front of you right now. Spend some time reflecting on how your response to these challenges could bring you closer to true dependence on God.

Our acts of obedience to God's direction do not make us right with God; only Jesus' sacrifice can do that. Why is obedience still so important? How do you balance that in your life?

Consider the words of Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." What does being created in God's "own image" mean to you? How does this reality impact your day-to-day life?

*Day 4*  
*February 16*



*Pray / Thank God for his promise and plan for your life.*

CELEBRATE GOD’S BLESSINGS and the challenges they imply.

In our Scripture reading today, we see the Israelites completed the work of building the tabernacle *just as the Lord commanded*. As a result of their obedience, Moses blessed them. The theme of reward (or blessing) for obedience is another theme we see throughout the story of God. It’s a challenging and often misunderstood theme. As God’s children, our motivation for obedience flows from awe of who God is and love and gratitude for all God already has done for us. We struggle to deal with the reality that God often does reward obedience here on earth. We hope for it but think we shouldn’t. It’s all quite prideful and childish. The reality is that if you’re obeying God for rewards here on earth, you’ve missed the point. However, if you’re obeying God out of awe, love, and gratitude, God may choose to reward you immediately. Celebrate it! God is empowering you to do even greater things for him.



*Read / Exodus 39:42–43*





*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Take a few minutes to reflect on your motivations for obeying God. Are you motivated by love, obligation, desire for stuff, or a desire to help others? Go to God with these thoughts and ask him for clarity on what your motivations should be and how you can make that real in your day-to-day life.

How has God blessed you to be a blessing to others? How are you doing at blessing others?

Do you struggle with jealousy, a feeling that God has not rewarded you adequately? If so, confess these feelings to God in prayer. Ask him for clarity on how you can stop comparing and start using the many gifts he already has given you.

# Day 5

February 17



*Pray / Ask God to reveal his glory to you every day.*

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S GLORY through his presence.

The word *glory* is used in multiple ways when talking about God. In our passage today, we see God's glory filling the newly completed tabernacle. In this context, *glory* refers to the magnificence of God's presence, experienced by humans. God's glory and presence in the form of a cloud and fire would be a constant source of assurance for the Israelites during their journey through the wilderness. The other key context for *glory* is the fact that the primary purpose for life on this earth is to bring glory to God. As we experience God's greatness and his presence, we publically celebrate that greatness so that others are drawn in and ultimately do the same. While we don't have a cloud of fire, we can see and feel God's presence in so many other ways: through the Holy Spirit, our church, nature, selfless acts of service . . . the list goes on and on. Make it a point to open your eyes and see God today. Give him the glory he is due.



*Read / Exodus 40:34–38*



*Reflect / Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

In response to the question “What is the chief end of man?”, *The Westminster Shorter Catechism* says this: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” Take a few minutes to reflect on these statements. How do these top priorities manifest themselves in your life?

Where and when do you most commonly experience God’s presence in your life? What affect do those encounters have on your life?

Are you comfortable giving God glory publically? If so, take a few minutes to reflect on how you can help or influence those around you to do the same. If not, think of one practical way (even if it’s very small) you can do more of this, and then commit to doing it. God will use the little things that we do for his glory to bring about great things.

*Portions of this study were adapted from Ed Stetzer and Trevin Wax, eds., The Gospel Project Chronological: God Delivers, Vol. 2, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.*

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