





## Exodus

Exodus is the story of Moses, the story of the birth of the Israelite people as a nomadic nation, but most importantly, the story of their journey from the land of Egypt to the dwelling place of God. The book begins with the divine deliverance of the people from Egypt, under the leadership of Moses and the hand of God. Having crossed the Red Sea, and so escaped from Pharaoh, the Israelite arrive at Sinai and enter into a covenant with God (the most well-known part being the ten commandments). Finally, God instructs the people (through Moses) in the right way to worship him – and that means the tabernacle.

It is while Moses is up on the mountain receiving these instructions from God that Aaron leads the people into idol worship. It is important to note that God's plan for the tabernacle (Exodus 25) is in place even before the golden calf (Exodus 32). The tabernacle is not a response to the false worship of Israel, but this episode is a perfect illustration of why God desires to put himself back at the heart of the Israelite community.

Only Moses and Joshua were allowed onto the mountain at Sinai – the rest of the people were left behind to wait. Whilst they could see the smoke at the top of the mountain, God must have seemed distant and unreachable to them. When we also remember that the Israelites had been living amongst the Egyptians for 400 years (at least ten generations), it isn't surprising that they fell back on mimicking the Egyptian pattern of idol worship.

As people, it seems that we like to have something we can see, and like to feel that we are in relationship with someone or something, and God understands this (after all, he made us). The tabernacle fulfils that role for the Israelites. It says 'God is here, in the middle of your camp. Look, you can see where he is right now'.







## Discussion Points

*Why is the tabernacle relevant to us?*

*What does the tabernacle tell us about God's relationship with us?*

*How do we see this relationship? How does God?*

*What was the role of the tabernacle to the Israelites?*

*How can we show God that he is welcome among us?*

	subject
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Tabernacle 101
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Symbolism of the tabernacle
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy of Holies
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Aaron and the Levites
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Melchizedek, Eli, Zadok...
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Temple 101
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Solomon, Zerubbabel, Herod