

**Rolling Hills Community Church - Franklin**  
**God's Dwelling Place: The story Before the Story**  
**Jeff Simmons**

**October 8, 2017 | Exodus 25:1-9**  
**The Tabernacle**

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

**Exodus 25:8**

**God longs to dwell with His people**

*The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give...Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. **Exodus 25:1-2 and 8-9***

- This is God's desire – garden, tabernacle, temple, our hearts through Christ & heaven.
- God invites His people to be involved.
- Biblical difference between a "tithe" and an "offering."
- Tabernacle actually means "dwelling place."

**The Tabernacle shows us that:**

**God comes to us**

*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Romans 5:8**

- God came to His people back in the Old Testament
- God comes to us today through Jesus Christ His Son

**Our God is a Holy God**

*But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." **1 Peter 1:15-16***

- Holy means "to be set apart."
- Sin is a big deal to God
- How seriously do we take sin?
- Are we pursuing holiness?

**God desires to dwell with us through Christ**

*...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

- **Five conditions to "tabernacling" with God:**
  - A sincere heart (honesty)
  - A full assurance of faith (faith)
  - Hearts sprinkled from a guilty conscience (salvation in Christ)
  - Bodies washed with pure water (baptism)
  - Daily allowing Christ to dwell in you (obedience)

**Taking It Home**

God longs to dwell with His people. In the beginning when God created man, God walked with man in the cool of the day. When man sinned, there was an immediate separation – Holy God from sinful man. Yet, God set into motion a plan to redeem mankind. God called out a people for Himself. He told the people to build a “tabernacle,” so He might dwell with them. Today, God comes to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. God wants to dwell with us. Will you draw near to God today? God longs to dwell with His people.