



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Ten Commandments”

Preached by Ian Simkins

February 15, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Ian explores the theme of proximity with God through the book of Exodus, focusing on chapters 25-40 where God instructs Moses to build the Tabernacle. The sermon emphasizes that Exodus is not just about escape from Egypt, but about God's desire to dwell among His people. Pastor Ian explains that though Israel was suddenly set free, it took a lifetime to learn how to live free. The Tabernacle represents God's invitation to intimate relationship, containing the Ark of the Covenant (where holiness and mercy meet), the Table of Bread (representing daily communion), and the Lampstand (symbolizing restored life). However, when God's glory finally fills the completed Tabernacle, Moses cannot enter, revealing that proximity to a holy God requires preparation and transformation. The sermon concludes by connecting this to Jesus, who is the ultimate Tabernacle - God dwelling

among us in flesh, making intimate relationship with God possible through His sacrifice.

Key Passages

- Exodus 25:8
- Exodus 25:22
- Exodus 40:34-35
- John 1:14
- Colossians 3:17

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, as we gather today in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to approach Your word with open hands - ready to release what we need to let go of and ready to receive what You have for us. Holy Spirit, we invite You to do a work in our lives that only You can do. Reveal, heal, convict, and restore us as we discuss Your word together. May we leave this time changed by Your presence and truth. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What's your go-to comfort food when you've had a difficult day, and do you prefer to eat it alone or share it with someone?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Ian mentioned that 'proximity changes everything.' How have you experienced this truth in your human relationships, and how might it apply to your relationship with God?
2. The sermon described the Ten Commandments not just as rules but as 'imagine ifs' - visions for flourishing life. How does this perspective change the way you view God's commands?
3. Why do you think God chose to make a table (not a throne or altar) the second major piece of furniture in His dwelling place? What does this tell us about His heart toward us?
4. Pastor Ian shared that the first person filled with God's Spirit was Bezalel, who was called to create beautiful things. How does this

challenge or expand your understanding of what it means to be spirit-filled?

5. The people built the golden calf while God was describing how He would come close to them. What are some modern 'golden calves' that we create when we want to control God rather than trust Him?
6. Moses couldn't enter the completed Tabernacle because of God's overwhelming glory. What do you think this teaches us about the tension between wanting God's presence and being prepared for it?
7. Pastor Ian said 'intimacy requires intentionality.' What are some practical ways we can be more intentional about cultivating intimacy with God in our daily lives?
8. How does understanding Jesus as the ultimate Tabernacle - God dwelling among us - change your perspective on having access to God's presence?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, choose one area where you will practice intentionality about God's presence in your life. This could be setting aside daily time for prayer and scripture, practicing gratitude throughout the day, or approaching your work as an act of worship. Remember that 'God's job is outcomes, our job is

obedience' - focus on faithful obedience rather than trying to manufacture spiritual feelings or experiences.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- Exodus is not primarily about escape but about God's desire for proximity and communion with His people.
- The Tabernacle reveals that God's presence includes both holiness and mercy, with mercy covering the law.
- Intimacy with God requires intentionality - we must approach His presence with reverence and preparation.
- God desires daily communion with us, not just occasional spiritual encounters.
- Through Jesus, we have access to God's presence and can live inside His dwelling rather than standing outside.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Father, thank You for Your incredible desire to dwell with us and be near to us. We are amazed that the God of the universe wants intimate relationship with each of us. Help us to not treat Your presence casually, but to approach You with both reverence and confidence because of what Jesus has done. Transform our daily rhythms to reflect our relationship with You. When Your presence exposes areas that need healing in our lives, help us to trust that this is Your love at work, not condemnation. Thank You that through Jesus, we don't have to stand outside the tent - we can live in Your presence every day. Continue to do the work in our hearts that only You can do. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.