



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Encounter*

Scripture: *Exodus 25-40*

Date: June 1 & 2, 2019

Message: *Into His Presence*

—[LET'S START]—

Almost everyone loves a good action movie. In his sermon, Pastor Dale mentioned the 1981 film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, starring Harrison Ford. In the film, Ford's character Indiana Jones went on a quest to find the biblical Ark of the Covenant. What are some of your favorite action/adventure movies? Do you have any treasures that you like to search for? It might be something you collect, something you are always on the lookout for, or something you have always dreamed of searching for. Share with the group what types of treasures that you are on the lookout for.

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? As a group, take some time to pray. Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work, and pray about the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Throughout this series we have seen the devastating impact of Adam and Eve's choice to sin and how God used the Tabernacle as a means for the Israelites to encounter Him. At the center of the Tabernacle was the Tent of Meeting, and hidden behind a veil was the Ark of the Covenant where God's glorious presence was signified by fire and cloud (see Ex. 25:10-23). Inside the Ark was: 1) the Law (Ex. 25:16), the Jar of Manna (Ex. 16:33-35), and Aaron's budding rod (Numbers 17). What do you suppose these items represented?
3. Pastor Dale suggested that the items represented perfection (the Law), provision (the Manna), and eternal life (Aaron's budding rod). It's what we all long for. The closest anyone could get to the Ark was on Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement, when the High Priest brought an offering to make atonement for the sins of the nation. It would take a perfect High Priest offering a perfect sacrifice to finally set human beings free to live in God's presence again. Read the following passages and share what they teach us about 1) God and 2) Humanity:

Hebrews 2:14-17, Hebrews 7:26-28, Hebrews 9:11-12, Matthew 5:17, Galatians 3:24, John 6:32-35, John 11:25-26.
4. What is God showing you that you need to do with what we have talked about today? Who in your life needs to hear about this?

—[LET'S ACT]—

The greatest treasure that any of us will ever possess is found in knowing and loving God. This week, let's strive to spend time encountering His presence, which has been made possible to us because of Jesus. This week, spend some time journaling about your times with God. Come back next time prepared to share about what God has been revealing to you about Himself.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- In the Garden, human kind enjoyed the closest fellowship with God. His presence sustained Adam and Eve, protected them from death and covered them with perfection.
- God is a God of hope, even when we fail Him.
- The Tabernacle and the Temple were reminders of the Garden. God was inviting humanity back into an Edenic experience with himself.
- In the center was the Tent of the meeting and hidden behind a veil was the Ark of the Covenant where God's glorious presence was signified by fire and cloud (Ex. 25:10-23).
- The secret of the Ark's power was the presence of God and within the Ark were three objects that symbolized what humanity lost in the garden and so desperately needed to regain to be in a right relationship again with the Creator (Ex. 40:34-38).
 - The Law (Ex. 25:16)
 - The Jar of Manna (Ex. 16:33-35)
 - Aaron's Budding Rod (Num. 17)
- God used Aaron's rod to prove that He had the power to make something dead alive again. Who or what could make humans spiritually alive again before God?
 - All three items remind one of what it was like in the Garden before Adam and Eve sinned and were cast out.
 - They were naked and not ashamed.
 - In the Garden God provided everything they needed.
 - There was no death in the Garden, just life.
 - Everything that was lost in the Garden was now in the box. No one had the capacity to lift the lid on the box and receive the power it concealed:
 - Perfection
 - Provision
 - Eternal Life
- The closest anyone could ever get was on Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement.
- It would take a perfect High Priest offering perfect sacrifice to finally set human beings free to live in God's presence again! Since human beings could not produce a perfect high priest, God sent His Eternal Son as one (Heb. 2:14-15, 17; Heb. 7:26-28, Heb. 9:11-12).
- Jesus gives us perfection because he completes the law (Mt. 5:17, Gal. 3:24), he sustains us because He is the Bread of Life (John 6:32-35), and he removes the sting of death because he is the source of eternal life (John 11:25-26).