

## 3rd Week of April

### [God Is With Us](#)

- **Text:** 1 Kings 8:6~11 (April 18)
- **Bottom line:** God showed us His promise to be with us by His presence in the temple.

#### 1. Praise

(Hymn 208)

#### 2. Prayer

Dear God, please let all of us seek You with earnest hearts and rejoice in You.

#### 3. The Word

Read 1 Kings 8:6~11 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

##### <ESV>

6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 8 And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

##### <NASB>

6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its carrying poles from above. 8 But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10 And it happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

## Understanding Text

After the temple was built, Solomon brought the ark of the covenant. The Ark of the Covenant is an important symbol of God's presence, and it was made in the time of Moses. When the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the prepared place of the Holy of Holies, a cloud filled the temple. The glory of God in the temple in the form of clouds means that God is with us.

### □ Understanding the text for leaders

Solomon built the temple that his father David wanted to build. For Israel, the temple was a place where they saw God's presence as a guarantee of their promise. The temple is the place where God has promised to always be with us and meet us. The temple is divided into the Holy of Holies and the Holy of Holies, which is a holy place that only the High Priest can enter on the Day of Atonement every year. There is the Ark of the Covenant, a symbol of God's presence. Originally, the ark contained items that reminded us of important events that God had with us. It was the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's budding rod, and a jar of manna. The text says that the ark contained only two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments. God chose the Israelites and promised to be with them. God, who kept His promise to always be with us through the tabernacle in the wilderness, now that He has occupied the land of Canaan, please promise to be with His people through the temple. Just as He was a protector in the wilderness, He promised to be with the people in the land of Canaan and save them. So when the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies in the temple, it was filled with clouds. Through the clouds, God showed the fullness of His presence in their place.

## 4. Sharing

1) What happened when the priest carried the Ark of the Covenant under the wings of the Cherubims of the most holy place?

### ■ Upper Grades

What happened when the priests placed the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place? (verse 10).

### ■ Lower Grades

What happened when the priests placed the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place? (verse 10).

### □ Question Guide

After Solomon finished building the temple, he moved the Ark of the Covenant from the City of David to the the most holy place in the temple. Let's take a look at what happened after that.

### □ Comments for Leaders

The Ark of the Covenant was an important reminder that God was with the Israelites at the time of the Exodus. God had Moses make the ark of the covenant and put symbolic objects in it (the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's budding rod, and the jar of manna) to remember God. It is very important that the ark of the covenant, which is a symbol of God's presence, was placed in the temple. God promised to be with the Israelites in the land of Canaan and to meet them in the temple. As a sign of God's presence with His people, He filled the temple with clouds and showed the fullness of His presence.

2) How and when do I feel that God is with me? What kind of mindset should I have before God who is with me?

### ■ Upper Grades

When I think of God who is always with me, how should I live my life at home, at school, etc.?

### ■ Lower Grades

Share when you will feel strong and happy when God is with you.

#### □ Question Guide

God is with us now, just as He was with the Israelites. When you are conscious of God's presence in your daily life, share how your mindset and attitude should change.

#### □ Comments for Leaders

God's presence in the temple clearly showed Jesus, who is Immanuel. God, who was with the Israelites long ago, is with us today. When we are conscious of God in our daily lives, we can feel closer to Him and live in the fullness of His presence. If we are confident that God is with us now, how should we live at home, at school, at work, and in church? God's presence with us is a great blessing and grace. Remember, living in the daily enjoyment of God, the Creator and Almighty, is the ultimate goal of Christian lives.

#### ≡ 5. Be Grateful

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving, thinking of God's grace that has been with our family and keeping us until now.

#### ≡ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for loving us and being with us no matter how inadequate we are. Help me to remember that You are with us always to live faithfully.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.

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