

TENT PEGS

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE

TENT PEGS

Part 2: Refuse to Stay Behind

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

Thesis:

God has more for us than we can imagine or ask for (*Ephesians 3:20*), and when we make room for 'the more of God,' He fills the space!

[Isaiah 54:2-4]

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame.

[Isaiah 43:18-19, GNTD]

Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there.

[Numbers 9:15-22]

On the day the Tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered it. But from evening until morning the cloud over the Tabernacle looked like a pillar of fire. This was the regular pattern—at night the cloud that covered the Tabernacle had the appearance of fire. Whenever the cloud lifted from over the sacred tent, the people of Israel would break camp and follow it. And wherever the cloud settled, the people of Israel would set up camp. In this way, they traveled and camped at the LORD's command wherever he told them to go. Then they remained in their camp as long as the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle (Tent of meeting). If the cloud remained over the Tabernacle for a long time, the Israelites stayed and performed their duty to the LORD.²⁰ Sometimes the cloud would stay over the Tabernacle for only a few days, so the people would stay for only a few days, as the LORD commanded. Then at the LORD's command they would break camp and move on.

*Whether the cloud stayed above the Tabernacle for two days, a month, or a year, the people of Israel stayed in camp and did not move on. **But day or night, when the cloud lifted, the people broke camp and moved on.***

If we don't move with the Cloud, we can get stuck in dead religion.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR MOVE:

- 1. Stay with the cloud and the community!**

[Deuteronomy 25:17]

*Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked **all who were lagging behind...***

[1 Corinthians 10:11]

These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

2. **Recognize the stakes that need to be pulled up.**
3. **Take action to move the stubborn stakes.**
 - **PEOPLE:** Expand your world by making new connections and relationships.
 - **PLACES:** Go where you have not been, see what you have not seen.
 - **MONEY:** Move into new levels of generosity and greater giving.
 - **RESOLVE:** Make a determination and a declaration, “I REFUSE TO STAY BEHIND.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **How much do you like or dislike camping? What factors either draw you to it or make you detest it?**
2. **What can we learn about decision-making from the Israelites “camping” experience, their 40 years in the dessert? How did**

God use the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to direct them?

- 3. What are some intentional people, places, or things God uses to direct you?**
- 4. What are some “stakes” that push people into small thinking and safe living?**
- 5. What personal choices can you make to produce forward motion in your faith? In other words, how do you stay with the Cloud and the community?**
- 6. Which of the “stubborn stakes” strikes a chord with your life? What action can you take this week to remove some of the “stubborn stakes?”**
- 7. What’s something bigger than you can see, that God is doing right now?**