

SPEAKER: James Teutschmann

DATE: May 31, 2026

SERIES TITLE: He Is...

Sermon Title: HE IS...WITH US

Introduction

This week, we continued our series titled “He is...”, focusing on the book of Exodus. This is not a story about Moses, nor a story about Pharaoh. This is a story about God, and seeing who **He is** clearly in a world that has gotten Him wrong. What we see in Exodus time and time again, and what is echoed often in our own lives, is a nature of forgetting just who God is, and seeing the world through the lens of a forgotten, misunderstood God— instead of seeing the world through His lens. Throughout this series, we are going to be diving into understanding more about who **He is**, and what that means for our lives.

Seek the Word: Scripture Passages for the Week: Exodus 19-33

What's something you've waited a long time for—a promotion, a relationship milestone, a personal goal—where the waiting made you question if it would ever happen?

Opening Prayer: Ask someone to open in prayer, inviting God's presence into your time together.

1. God Will Come Down

God is not distant—He pursues closeness with His people.

Read Together: Exodus 19:16-19

1. The Israelites trembled with fear when they saw God's presence on the mountain – thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, trumpet blast. When you think about God being close to you—not far away in heaven, but present in your daily life – what's your honest reaction? Excitement? Fear? Indifference?
2. The sermon said: "The fear of God isn't terror that pushes us away. It's awe that keeps us from treating him casually." Where in your life have you started treating God casually—like a buddy instead of the Creator of the universe? (Think: prayer life, how you talk about Him, Sunday mornings, decision-making)

2. God Will Be Just

God's holiness and justice are part of His character.

Read Together: Exodus 20:18-20

1. When the people saw God's power, they told Moses: "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Why do you think people are often more comfortable with a distant God than a close one? What does that reveal about what we think God thinks of us?
2. Moses said, "God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." How does having a healthy respect for who God is—His holiness and justice—actually protect us from making destructive choices?

3. God Will Dwell Among Them

God doesn't just want to bless us—He wants to be with us.

Read Together: Exodus 25:8 and Exodus 33:15:

1. God's first instruction to Moses on the mountain was: "Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them." God moved into the center of their camp, not the outskirts. Think about the "camp" of your life – your marriage, your work, your friendships, your struggles. Where have you pushed God to the edges instead of keeping Him at the center?
2. The sermon pointed out: "We want God's provision without God's presence. We want the package without the person delivering it." Be honest – what do you find yourself praying for most often? Things God can give you, or God Himself?
3. Moses said, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." If God offered you career success, financial security, healthy kids, and a good marriage – but not His presence – would you take it? Why or why not?

4. God Will Keep His Promises

Even when we fail, God remains faithful.

Read Together: Exodus 32:1-4 and Exodus 33:1-3

1. While Moses was on the mountain receiving God's plans for their future, the people built a golden calf because they thought God was taking too long. What "golden calves" are you tempted to create when God's timing feels slow? (Examples: throwing yourself into work, numbing out with entertainment, trying to control everything yourself, etc.)
2. After the golden calf incident, God told Moses: "I will keep my promise. I'll give you the land. But I will not go with you." God was willing to honor His commitment even when the people rejected Him. What does this reveal about God's character? How does knowing God keeps His promises even when we fail change how you approach Him?
3. The sermon said: "God's silence is not God's absence." Where in your life right now does it feel like God is silent? What would it look like to trust that He's still working and keeping His promises, even when you can't see it?

Closing: He Is With Us

God's greatest gift is His presence.

Key Takeaway: From the tabernacle in Exodus, to Jesus ("God with us"), to the Holy Spirit living in believers—the entire story of Scripture is about a God who refuses to stay distant. God's greatest gift has never been what He puts in our hands. God's greatest gift has always been Himself.

What's one way you can remind yourself this week that "He is with you"?

Closing Prayer: Go around the circle and have each person pray one sentence, thanking God for His presence or asking Him to help them recognize it more clearly.

This Week's Challenge

Choose one:

- Start your day differently: Before checking your phone, spend 2 minutes acknowledging God's presence. Say out loud: "God, You are with me today."
- Audit your prayers: For the next week, notice what you're asking God for. Are you asking for things, or for Him?
- Invite Him into the middle: Pick one area of your life where God feels distant (work, marriage, parenting, a struggle) and intentionally invite Him into the center of it through prayer and conversation.
- Remember His promises: Write down one promise from Scripture that you need to hold onto this week. Put it somewhere you'll see it daily.

"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." — Moses, Exodus 33:15