

A SIX-WEEK COMMUNITY GROUP

EXODUS 33 → REVELATION 22

THE RETURNING GLORY

The oldest story in Scripture is a Presence that left — and is coming home. Six weeks of making room for the weight of God.

COMPANION BOOKLET

LED BY DEXTER & LARISSA JAKES

THIS BOOKLET BELONGS TO _____



THE WHOLE JOURNEY, ONLINE
thereturningglory.com

Read every week, go deeper into the research, and get the weekly devotional in your inbox.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Each week has three pages — **read The Lesson before you come, use In the Room on the night, carry This Week after.** The bar at the top of each page shows where you are; the tabs down the edge jump you to a week. And it doesn't stop at these pages — read every week, go deeper into the research, or get the weekly devotional at thereturningglory.com.

BEGIN

03 **How to Use This Booklet**

04 **The Arc** *one road, not six topics*

THE SIX WEEKS

05 **Week 1 — The Weight** *glory is weight*

08 **Week 2 — Make Me a Place** *He wants to dwell*

11 **Week 3 — Ichabod** *the honest week*

14 **Week 4 — And Dwelt Among Us** *the glory returns*

17 **Week 5 — You Are the Temple** *it moves into us*

20 **Week 6 — The Latter Glory** *forward and greater*

AND AFTER

23 **The Send**

24 **Keep the Room** *after the six weeks*

ONLINE

➤ thereturningglory.com *every week · the research · the devotional*

BEFORE WE BEGIN

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Each week has three pages. **The Lesson** — read it before you come. **In the Room** — for the night we gather. **This Week** — to carry after, because most of what God does, He does between Sundays.

You can't ruin this book. Write in it, cross things out, argue in the margins — leave whole pages blank. You do not have to fill every line, and one space each week asks you to write nothing at all. The **Go Deeper** notes and the pronunciations are for the curious — never a test.

THE WEEKLY RHYTHM

The Table (eat first) · Tuning (sing, then sit in the silence) · The Word (short) · The Circle (honesty) · The Encounter (the response) · The Send (a blessing).

OUR COVENANT

What is said here stays here. · We don't fix each other. · Everyone participates; no one performs. · The table is for everyone. · *We cannot schedule God. We can only make room.*

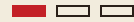
Come hungry. Write honestly. Make room.

THE ARC

God has always wanted to dwell with people. The whole Bible is the story of that Presence — defined, departed, returned, and finally filling everything. These six weeks walk that one road.

Week 1	The Weight	Glory is weight — the felt nearness of God.
Week 2	Make Me a Place	God asks to move in — to dwell, not visit.
Week 3	Ichabod	The glory departs — the honest week.
Week 4	And Dwelt Among Us	The glory returns — in a Person.
Week 5	You Are the Temple	The glory moves into us.
Week 6	The Latter Glory	Forward and greater — until it fills everything.

Kavod → Mishkan → Ichabod → The Word Tabernacled → The Church as Temple → The Latter Glory.



THE WEIGHT

THE CONCEPT

Glory isn't a glow. It's weight.

THE IMAGE

A stone in the hand — heaviness you can't argue with.

We say the word *glory* all the time. We almost never mean weight. But the Hebrew *kavod* is heaviness — the felt, undeniable nearness of God, here, in the room. On the mountain Moses asks the boldest thing a person can ask: show me your glory. God answers not with fire but with goodness and a name.

But do not mistake nearness for safety. The same weight struck Uzzah for steadying the ark (2 Samuel 6:7) and made Sinai a mountain no one could touch and live (Exodus 19:12). It was never safe — which is what makes it staggering that God came close at all. So the question we carry starts tonight: do we want what God gives — or the weight of God Himself? Weight is not a gift you hold. It is a gift that holds you down — and remakes you.

"Please show me your glory." ... "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here."

EXODUS 33:18, 15 (ESV)

GO DEEPER

OPTIONAL

kavod (כבוד) comes from a root meaning *heavy*. Centuries later the Greek Old Testament carried it across with the word *doxa*, and Paul finally fused the two ideas in one phrase — "an eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17). Glory was weight the whole way through.

SAY IT: KAVOD · KAH-VODE

The full research behind this week — with sources — lives at thereturningglory.com/go-deeper



For the Circle. Answer what you want — a blank line is allowed.

1. When have you felt the "weight" of God — or have you? Say it without church words.

2. Be honest: are you hungrier for what God gives, or for God Himself?

3. "If your presence won't go, I don't want to go." Where is that hard to mean?

HOWEVER YOU CAME TONIGHT

Right now, honestly, my hunger for God is — and it's okay to say "not sure":

FROM THE ROOM

Something said tonight I don't want to forget

People I'm carrying this week



THE PRACTICE

Catch yourself reaching for the gift — and ask instead for the Giver.

DAILY — MAKE ROOM

Pray **Psalm 27:4** each day this week: "One thing have I asked of the LORD... to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD."

Carry this: I want the Giver, not just the gift.

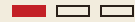
TAKE IT INTO THE WEEK

- Before you ask God for anything this week, sit one quiet minute and ask for nothing but Him.
- Catch one moment you wanted God's help more than God's face — and name it to Him.
- End the day with a single sentence: where did I feel His weight today?

SIT HERE

You don't have to write anything in this space. It's for sitting, not solving.

"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10



MAKE ME A PLACE

THE CONCEPT

God wants to move in — to dwell, not visit.

THE IMAGE

A tent pitched in the center of the camp, not the edge.

God's request is almost too much: make me a place, that I may dwell among you. Not visit. *Dwell*. The word is *mishkan* — a tent you settle into and stay. And notice the order — He rescues first, then moves in. His presence was the point of the rescue, not the prize for good behavior.

He's been trying to move back in since a garden. The question this week is quiet and hard: what room have you kept closed?

"And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst."

EXODUS 25:8 (ESV)

GO DEEPER

OPTIONAL

mishkan ("dwelling," from *shakan*, to settle) is paired in Exodus 25:8 with *miqdash* ("sanctuary") — holiness and nearness in a single breath. Read backward, the tabernacle is a portable Eden: the tent is God trying to move back in.

SAY IT: MISHKAN · MEESH-KAHN

The full research behind this week — with sources — lives at thereturningglory.com/go-deeper



For the Circle. Answer what you want — a blank line is allowed.

1. Do you keep God in a guest room, or give Him the whole house?

2. What's the closed door? (You don't have to name it aloud.)

3. What changes if the presence lives in the middle of your week, not the edge?

HOWEVER YOU CAME TONIGHT

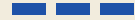
The room in me I'd least want God to walk into right now:

FROM THE ROOM

Something said tonight I don't want to forget

People I'm carrying this week

WK 2



THE PRACTICE

Open one closed room this week — a habit, a relationship, a grief.

DAILY — MAKE ROOM

Pray **Revelation 3:20** each day this week: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Carry this: Which door will I open today?

TAKE IT INTO THE WEEK

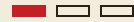
- Name the one room you've kept shut — a habit, a relationship, a grief — out loud to God, once.
- Do one concrete thing that cracks it open: a text, a confession, a first step.
- Each morning, invite Him into the part of your day you'd rather He skip.

SIT HERE

You don't have to write anything in this space. It's for sitting, not solving.

Don't narrate it. Just let Him in.

WK 2



ICHABOD

THE CONCEPT

The glory can lift; presence is not a possession.

THE IMAGE

A room people keep singing in after God has walked out.

A woman names her baby with her dying breath, and the name she chooses is grief itself: *Ichabod* — "the glory has departed." Israel had hauled the ark into battle like a good-luck charm, trying to use God without obeying Him. You cannot weaponize the presence. And when the glory leaves, it rarely storms out — in Ezekiel it withdraws by inches, giving every chance to turn back.

The danger is the quiet: a room people keep singing in after God has gone. We won't rush past this. Sit in it.

"And she named the child Ichabod, saying, 'The glory has departed from Israel.'"

1 SAMUEL 4:21 (ESV)

GO DEEPER

OPTIONAL

Ichabod is 'i (no / where?) joined to *kavod* — "no glory." In Ezekiel the departure is staged: cherubim, threshold, east gate, the mountain east of the city (Ezekiel 10–11). It leaves slowly, eastward — exactly the direction it will one day return.

SAY IT: ICHABOD · IK-UH-BOD

The full research behind this week — with sources — lives at thereturningglory.com/go-deeper



For the Circle. Answer what you want — a blank line is allowed.

1. Where have you kept the form after the fire left?

2. Have you ever tried to use God instead of seek Him? What did it look like?

WK 3

A SPACE FOR LAMENT

Where God has felt absent or silent — say it plainly. He can take it. Psalm 88 ends in the dark, and it is still Scripture.

FROM THE ROOM

Something said tonight I don't want to forget

People I'm carrying this week



THE PRACTICE

Name one place of "form without fire," and bring it back to God every day this week.

DAILY — MAKE ROOM

Pray **Psalm 80:3** each day this week: "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!"

Carry this: Restore us. Let your face shine.

TAKE IT INTO THE WEEK

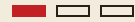
- Name one place you've kept the motions after the meaning left — and tell God the truth about it.
- Pause one "form without fire" routine this week, or do it differently, on purpose.
- Write your own short lament — three honest lines, no fixing — and read it back to Him.

SIT HERE

You don't have to write anything in this space. It's for sitting, not solving.

You can be silent here, too. He's still in the room.

WK 3



AND DWELT AMONG US

THE CONCEPT

The glory came back — in a Person.

THE IMAGE

A God you can touch. The tent became a body.

The glory that walked out did not stay gone — it came back wearing skin. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and the word for *dwelt* is the old tent word: He pitched His tent in a body. For centuries the holy had been kept at arm's length, spoken of carefully, never touched. Then it let itself be touched, and we beheld His glory and lived.

Moses saw God's back. We saw His face. This is the week to stop climbing and start receiving.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory ... full of grace and truth."

JOHN 1:14 (ESV)

GO DEEPER

OPTIONAL

"Dwelt" in John 1:14 is *eskēnōsen* — literally "pitched a tent," from the same root as the tabernacle. Jewish tradition spoke of God's presence at a reverent distance ("the Word," "the Glory"). John says: that Word became flesh.

SAY IT: ESKĒNŌSEN · ES-KAY-NO-SEN

The full research behind this week — with sources — lives at thereturningglory.com/go-deeper



For the Circle. Answer what you want — a blank line is allowed.

1. What does it change that God came near, instead of making you climb?

2. Where are you still trying to earn what's already offered?

3. "We beheld his glory." Where have you actually seen Him?

WK 4

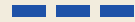
HOWEVER YOU CAME TONIGHT

What I'd have to stop doing to just receive:

FROM THE ROOM

Something said tonight I don't want to forget

People I'm carrying this week



THE PRACTICE

Once a day, behold — a long, unhurried look at Christ in the Gospels. Receive, don't perform.

DAILY — MAKE ROOM

Pray **Psalm 27:8** each day this week: "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

Carry this: Today I behold. I don't earn.

TAKE IT INTO THE WEEK

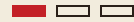
- Once a day, read one scene from the Gospels slowly and just look at Jesus — no notes, no goal.
- Catch one moment you're earning what's already given, and receive it instead.
- Tell one person something Christ has actually done for you.

SIT HERE

You don't have to write anything in this space. It's for sitting, not solving.

Look at Him. That's the whole practice.

WK 4



YOU ARE THE TEMPLE

THE CONCEPT

The presence moved into you — together.

THE IMAGE

Tongues of fire on ordinary heads — and no one burns.

The fire that once burned on a mountain too holy to touch came down at Pentecost and sat on people. Ordinary heads. The same fire that could have consumed them chose instead to rest. Paul says it plainly: you are the temple of God — and the *you* is plural. The presence is no longer somewhere you go; it's something you, together, are.

The fire never stays where it falls. You carry it out the door.

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16 (ESV)

GO DEEPER

OPTIONAL

The word for temple is *naos* — not the temple complex, but the inner sanctuary, the holy of holies. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 the "you" is plural: the whole gathered church is one sanctuary. At Pentecost the Sinai-fire came to rest on people (Acts 2).

SAY IT: NAOS · NAH-OSS

The full research behind this week — with sources — lives at thereturningglory.com/go-deeper



For the Circle. Answer what you want — a blank line is allowed.

1. What changes if your body — this group — is the holy place?

2. Where does the presence need to go that only you can carry it?

3. What does being a temple look like on a Monday?

HOWEVER YOU CAME TONIGHT

Where I feel least like a holy place:

FROM THE ROOM

Something said tonight I don't want to forget

People I'm carrying this week

WK 5



THE PRACTICE

Carry the presence into one specific place this week that only you can reach.

DAILY — MAKE ROOM

Pray **Galatians 5:25** each day this week: "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."

Carry this: I carry the presence into one place today.

TAKE IT INTO THE WEEK

- Pick one specific place — a desk, a kitchen, a group chat — and decide to carry Him there on purpose.
- Pray for one person in that place, by name, every day.
- Do one thing there you'd only do if God were in the room — because He is.

SIT HERE

You don't have to write anything in this space. It's for sitting, not solving.

You are the holy place. Rest in it.

WK 5

THE LATTER GLORY

THE CONCEPT

Forward and greater — until it fills everything.

THE IMAGE

A garden that became a city named "The LORD is there."

Restoration in the Bible never goes backward. The latter glory will be greater than the former. We are being transformed from one degree of glory to the next — and one verse later Paul names where the road ends: an eternal weight of glory. The weight we ached for in week one is the weight we're being made to carry forever.

It ends where it began, only more — Eden's river runs again, and Ezekiel's last word for the city is the plainest one there is: The LORD is there. You are not homesick for the past. You are homesick for the future. Go.

"The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts."

HAGGAI 2:9 (ESV)

GO DEEPER

OPTIONAL

Haggai's "greater" meets Paul's "one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18) and lands on "an eternal weight of glory" (4:17) — *kavod* to *doxa* to *baros doxēs*. Ezekiel closes with a city renamed "The LORD is there" (48:35); Revelation, with no temple, because God is the temple.

SAY IT: DOXA · DOX-AH | BAROS · BAH-ROSS

The full research behind this week — with sources — lives at thereturningglory.com/go-deeper

WIK 6



For the Circle. Answer what you want — a blank line is allowed.

1. Six weeks in — what is heavier in you now?

2. Where is God sending you with this?

3. What is the "greater" He's promising — forward, not backward?

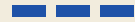
HOWEVER YOU CAME TONIGHT

What six weeks did — or didn't — change in me, honestly:

FROM THE ROOM

Something said tonight I don't want to forget

People I'm carrying forward



THE PRACTICE

Decide what continues — your own rhythm of making room, past these six weeks.

DAILY — MAKE ROOM

Pray **2 Corinthians 3:18** each day this week: "...being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

Carry this: From glory to glory — forward, not back.

TAKE IT INTO THE WEEK

- Write down the one rhythm from these six weeks you will keep — and when.
- Tell one person you're going to keep meeting with them.
- Set the first date now, before the momentum fades.

SIT HERE

You don't have to write anything in this space. It's for sitting, not solving.

Nothing left to do here but receive.

CARRY IT OUT THE DOOR

A temple was never built to keep the glory in. You came hungry for the weight of God; you leave as a place He has agreed to call home. Now go and make room everywhere you stand.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

NUMBERS 6:24-26 (ESV)

WHERE HE'S SENDING ME

AFTER THE SIX WEEKS

KEEP THE ROOM

The booklet ends. The room doesn't have to. The glory was never meant to stay in here. Neither were you. So keep one simple rhythm, in your own home, with whoever will come.

01 **Eat together — no agenda.**

02 **Sing, then sit in the silence.**

03 **Read one passage aloud.**

04 **Ask one honest question.**

05 **Pray for one another by name.**

06 **Send each other out with a blessing.**

WHAT WE'LL KEEP — AND WHEN



DON'T LET IT END · WALK IT AGAIN

thereturningglory.com

The whole journey stays online, and a short weekly devotional will walk you back through it. It never needed the booklet — only the room. Keep making it.