



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 10: Inhabited!

Suggested Week of Use: February 2, 2025

Core Passage: Exodus 40:16-21,34-38

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### News Story Summary

Do you know about the Waffle House Index? It's really a thing. Waffle House restaurants are legendary for staying open all day every day, regardless of the weather. So, if a Waffle House closes, you know a storm is going to be bad.

In the days leading up to Hurricane Helene's landfall in September 2024, many Florida residents didn't take evacuation orders seriously until they saw the Waffle Houses in their areas closed and boarded up before the Category 4 storm hit. One social media user posted a picture of his local Waffle House boarded up, writing "I cannot overstate how scary this image is. . . a Waffle House has not only closed, but boarded up? Danger. Extreme danger."

When Craig Fugate served as the head of Florida's Department of Emergency Management, he developed a three-color scale to determine where FEMA's resources were most needed. Green meant all Waffle Houses in an area were open and serving a full menu. Yellow signified areas where Waffle Houses were offering a limited menu due to power outages, lack of running water, or diminishing food supplies. Red represented Waffle Houses that were closed. According to Fugate, "If you get there and the Waffle House is closed? That's really bad. That's where you go to work."

For more information on this story, search "Waffle House Index."

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, summarize the information above about the Waffle House Index. Encourage the group to share if they've ever seen a Waffle House closed or boarded up. Highlight the unofficial role Waffle Houses play in evaluating where disaster relief workers need to deploy. Ask: *What other businesses or agencies might be similar?*

Remind the group that you have been walking through the book of Exodus, tracing the steps of the ancient Israelites. Share that this is the final session in Exodus before shifting to Leviticus. Explain that this session examines how the Israelites also had a way of determining whether to stay in a certain area or to move on to another place. Say: *God revealed His presence to Israel in a far more glorious way. They followed Him, and we can learn a lot from their example.*

## Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, refer back to the news story about the three colors on the Waffle House Index. Share that while God led Israel with a cloud of glory, He leads us today through the working of His Holy Spirit. Encourage adults to imagine if believers had a similar scale for determining how the Holy Spirit was leading and working in their lives. Ask: *What would green represent? Yellow? Red?* Invite the group to identify their own criteria. (Example: *Green could indicate the obvious and ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit in that person's life, while red would indicate no visible activity of the Spirit at all.*)

Assure the group that you are not going to ask them to evaluate anybody else. Instead, encourage them to evaluate themselves. As you prepare to close in prayer, urge them to think about what adjustments they need to make to demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is present and active in their lives. Close in prayer.