

Week 2

Theophanies

When God Appears

6-Day
Devotional

Day 1 — God Leads With Presence, Not Just Directions

Scripture: *Exodus 13:21–22*

Reflection: When God freed Israel, He didn't hand them a map. He gave them Himself. The pillar wasn't just guidance; it was God's *presence made visible*. *He didn't give Israel clarity; He gave them company. We tend to think the opposite: "God, just tell me the plan." But God invites us into dependence, not control. The pillar of fire and cloud is a theophany, a visible manifestation of the invisible God. In Jesus, God becomes even more personal: "I am with you always..." — Matthew 28:20*

Application:

- Identify one area of uncertainty in your life (relationships, future, school, career) and pray slowly: "God, I don't need the whole map. I just need You to lead me today."
- Practice presence: Spend 5 minutes in silence. No agenda. No requests. Just awareness of God's nearness.

Day 2 — Stop Moving When God Stays

Scripture: *Numbers 9:17–18*

Reflection: This might be the hardest part of discipleship: Waiting. Israel only moved when God moved. Whether the cloud stayed for a day, a month, or a year... they stayed too. Their pace was determined by God's presence, not their mood or motivation. In our culture, staying still feels like failure. But in the Kingdom, waiting is obedience. Sometimes God delays movement to: Prepare what's ahead, Prepare you for what's ahead, or Protect you from something you can't see. *God's pace is not punishment; it's protection. Remember, Obedience includes knowing when not to move.*

Application:

- Where are you rushing God? Write it down. Pray: "Lord, help me be more obedient than impatient." Practice "stop and stay": Before every major decision this week, ask: "Has God moved, or am I forcing movement?"

Day 3 — When God Stands Between You and What You Fear

Scripture: *Exodus 14:19–20*

Reflection: Israel thought the enemy was gaining ground. They couldn't see what God was doing, but God was already moving behind them. We panic when we can't see progress. God protects in places we cannot see. There are battles God never asks you to fight. There are threats God intercepts that you'll never know about until eternity. Our job is obedience.

Application:

- Write down your biggest current fear. Then rewrite it as a prayer of surrender: "God, stand between me and ____." Take a physical step backward. It sounds simple, but it's symbolic: God moves *between you and what you fear*.

Day 4 — Light in Darkness, Not Light Instead Of Darkness

Scripture: *Exodus 13:21b*

Reflection: God did not remove the night. He lit it. Sometimes God walks us around hard things. Other times, He walks us *through them and lights the path one step at a time*. Jesus echoed this reality: “*I am the light of the world.*” — John 8:12 He doesn’t eliminate darkness around us. He gives light within us.

Application:

- Tonight, turn off all lights. Sit in stillness with only a candle or phone flashlight. Pray: “Jesus, show me my next step — not the whole road.”
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Day 5 — When There Is No Way Forward

Scripture: *Exodus 14:21–22*

Reflection: Israel is trapped: The sea in front of them, Pharaoh is behind them, and there is nowhere to run. Sometimes God waits until the last possible moment, not to scare us, but so we know He did it. Whenever God makes a way, He not only delivers you *from*, but also leads you *to*. *Freedom is more than escape.*

Application:

- Identify your “Red Sea”—something that feels impossible. Write down: What you can control and what you cannot. Release what’s not yours to carry: “*That part is God’s.*”
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Day 6 — Freedom Lives on the Other Side of Obedience

Scripture: *Exodus 14:29–31*

Reflection: Obedience always reveals something about God. When Israel stepped onto that dry sea floor, they weren’t just walking into freedom. They were walking into trust. Theophanies are not meant to end with awe. They are meant to lead to *obedience*. *God doesn’t reveal Himself just to be seen. He reveals Himself to be followed. The presence of God demands a response.*

Application:

Journal:

- 1.What next step of obedience is God calling me to take?
- 2.What fear is keeping me from taking it?
- 3.Who in my life needs to know this step so they can encourage me?

Then do one hard thing:

Tell a trusted friend your step.

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