

Day 3

“The Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night” (Exodus 13:21, CSB).

Have you ever spent the night in a hotel or family member’s house? You wake up disoriented, trying to remember what obstacles may trip you or stub your toe if you’re not careful. A flashlight will lead you safely through the unfamiliar surroundings.

As the Israelites escaped from Egypt, God made His presence known to them. He led them through the desert into the Promised Land in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. By day, He guided them through unfamiliar and often dangerous terrain. And at night, His light broke through the darkness. More than that, God gave a visible representation of His constant presence.

We may wish for some visible representation of God’s presence in our daily lives. God sent His Son to be just that: “They will name him Immanuel, which is translated ‘God is with us’” (Matthew 1:23). When we accept God’s forgiveness and surrender to Him as Lord through Christ’s sacrifice, God is with us for the journey, even when it feels like the thick and impenetrable darkness surrounds us. Just as God led the Israelites through the desert, He is leading us and shining His light in the darkness. We seek God’s presence by looking for His light in the darkness. We can rest in His constant presence.

In what situation do you need God to remind you of His constant presence?

Who can you encourage this week with the truth that God is always with us?

Lord, I thank You for Your presence in my life. I want to rest in You and follow Your guidance.