

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 3-9, 2024

“THE PRESENCE OF GOD”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What qualities do you think makes a good friend and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Exodus 33.

1. Why does God refuse to travel with the Israelites (verses 2-3)? When the people removed their ornaments as a sign of mourning and humility, how does this gesture demonstrate their acknowledgment of sin and their desire for reconciliation with God?
2. What is the significance of Moses' tent (aka, “tent of meeting”) being set up outside the camp? What do you think about the unique relationship between Moses and God, described as a face-to-face encounter, which Moses alone enjoyed? Reflect on the distinction between the intimate encounters Moses had with God and the experience of the Israelites from a distance.
3. Consider Moses' plea for God to assure him of his presence. What does this say about Moses' understanding of who God is? When God promised that his presence will go with Moses (verse 14, “you” singular in the original Hebrew meaning the promise is to Moses only and to the Jews), what do you see about his heart and care of Moses for the Israelites in his reply (verses 15-16)?
4. Verse 16 tells us that what makes a believer distinct is the presence of God. How is this significant today for the church as a whole and for you as an individual believer?
5. When you think about the “glory of God,” what comes to your mind? What limitations did God place on revealing his full glory to Moses (verses 19-23)? For you, what does it mean to “see the glory of God”?

6. How does Moses' leadership throughout this chapter exemplify the qualities of a faithful servant and mediator? Share some leadership lessons that you have learned from this passage.

7. What are one or two things you can commit to doing differently as a result of this message?

NEXT STEPS

It is heartbreaking to be happy with God's provision and God's protection and not care about God's presence.

- ☐ I will prioritize spending time in God's presence daily through prayer, meditation on Scripture, and worship.
- ☐ I will seek his presence above all else.
- ☐ I will emulate Moses' example of bold and persistent prayer, specially for my friends and loved ones.
- ☐ I will set my heart to be aware of the glory of God in my life.
- ☐ *Don't forget to:*
- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that rests and trust in the presence of God.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

March 4	Exodus 33:1-11
March 5	Exodus 33:12-23
March 6	Psalms 119:1-8
March 7	Exodus 34:1-28
March 8	Exodus 34:29-35
March 9	Psalms 34:8-14
March 10	Deuteronomy 4:29-31