

House Church Study Questions
Based on the SAC Sermon on August 30th, 2020

Sermon: The Presence of God

Text: Exodus 33:12-17

Gathering Guidelines

-Watch Pastor Brian's intro video for this week.

Take some time to worship

Play a worship song. Pray to Jesus. Be in His presence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe1TusNg4I> (The Presence of God)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWzZFdXbh9Y> (Seeking God's Presence)

Read

Exodus 3:2-6

Exodus 33:12-17

Discussion Questions

#1: Every one of us has a dream, something that we want to see happen in our lives. Sometimes they are big and sometimes they are quite small, but each one is significant.

Think about something you would like to see happen in your life and share it with your House Church people. Remember the size of the dream doesn't matter, the important thing is that it belongs to you, trust your people there to encourage you as you share it. . .

#2: God has 'dreams' for us too! We usually call it 'His will' for us, but they still inspire and cause us to imagine things beyond ourselves. In Exodus 3 God begins a process of revealing His dream for Moses' life by revealing His Presence to him in a burning bush.

What is Moses' reaction to being in God's presence in Exodus 3:6?

#3: God has chosen to do His work here on earth through sinful/broken people. And the things He wants to do always makes us feel, at least initially, inadequate and ill-equipped to do it.

In Exodus 3:10 God tells Moses what His 'dream' for his life is—to set the people of Israel free from Egyptian oppression.

Read Exodus 3:11 to see what Moses' response to God's dream for his life is. . .

-Imagine that you are the one standing at a burning bush and God asked you to liberate China from communist rule. How would you respond?

#4: "Who am I?" That's how we can feel when we read scripture and we see Jesus saying to us to do the things He did. We say to His dreams for us: "Who am I?"

But this is God's answer to this problem of our poor, broken self-image: He says to Moses in Exodus 33:14 "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Think about God's Manifest Presence. If you could see God in the room right now, how would you feel?

#5: God's Presence changed Moses over the course of his life. In fact, Moses adopted a lifestyle of pursuing God's Presence. It became life to him!

In Exodus 33:7-11 it describes Moses setting up a tent far outside of the Israelites camp, far away from distractions, far from his leadership responsibilities, far from relational conflicts, and would go to this tent to be in God's Presence and have actual conversations with Him there. Moses *pursued* God's Presence in daily life, and this radically changed his heart.

Read again Exodus 3:6 and compare that with Exodus 33:15-18 asking this question:

-Describe how being in God's Presence all those years changed Moses?

-Then ask yourself this question: "If I pursued the Presence of God like Moses, would it have the same affect on me?"

#6: In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus says: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. . ."

We usually think of this passage like it's God inviting us to have a counselling session in a quiet space with a nice little water-fall feature in the background where we share our burdens with Jesus and He helps us.

But this passage is exactly the same as Exodus 33:14 where God says to Moses "My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest." God told this to Moses as a roadmap for his life through which God's dreams were powerfully enacted in real life. A nation was set free. A sea was divided. Enemies were overthrown. Great battles and a 40 year long adventure in the desert were experienced. . .these served as the context for God saying to Moses "My Presence will be with you and you will find rest there."

****Spiritual Key****

God's dream for us is that *we seek His Presence*. Not just information about His Presence (reading the Bible). Not just gathering together to talk about His Presence (attending church). Not just doing a lot of work in Jesus' name (service). God wants us to pursue His Presence. Moses pursued God's Presence even when he walked over to the burning bush and the whole adventure began then! We are invited to pursue the Presence of Jesus too. Seek Him and we will begin to see His 'great adventure dreams' begin to be revealed for us as well.

Invitation and Mission for this week

This week your mission is to allow God to teach you something about the great adventure He wants for you. Remember this happens *as you pursue His Presence*, so if you expect something to happen while you wait on the sidelines you will be disappointed.

So the first thing you should do is to set aside at least 15 minutes every day to be with Him. And in that time read and then contemplate Matthew 28:18-20:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Your first thoughts will likely be: “Who am I?” I can’t do those things. . .sound familiar? Moses did what he could. . .he pursued the Presence of God and everything changed from there. *Do the same!*

Ask the Lord questions, listen for His responses. . . .

Pray for each other

Tonight, pray for each other for the strength to really pursue God’s Presence this week. It is *very hard to do* and prayer support is needed. Your pursuit of God’s Presence this week starts now. Help each other in this pursuit! Everyone is invited to pray. Everyone is invited to receive prayer.