

Sermon Discussion Guide January 8, 2012



1. When have you felt God's presence most clearly?
2. When the Israelites came out of slavery in Egypt, Deuteronomy 29:5 says their clothes did not wear out for 40 years!! What other miraculous signs did they see? (You can read this story in the book of Exodus.)
3. In spite of miracles, the people did not know God well enough to trust him. Read Exodus 33:13-15. What made Moses different from the people?
4. Read Exodus 33:16 and Deuteronomy 4:7. How was God's presence the distinguishing mark of the Israelites? How is his presence the distinguishing mark of the church today?
5. What exactly is the presence of God?

So what exactly is the presence of God? Can it even be defined? Talking about presence is difficult because it is not a tangible thing we can see and put our hands on. By nature, it is a somewhat mysterious concept. To try and describe God's presence is like taking a picture of the Grand Canyon with a Polaroid at night. Terry Teykl Presence Based Church

To seek his presence is a growing desire to become aware of and to embrace the reality of God's actual presence in all we do. Pastor Brown

6. Read Psalm 63. Last week Pastor Carrie shared that the heart of a God-Seeker:

Thirsts for God Satisfied with God Meditates on God Clings to God Glorifies God.

How does your life reflect these five things? Which one do you need to work on most?

7. Pastor Brown shared three ways that we can begin to seek God's Presence.

Take Time Away From Camp

Read Exodus 33:7-9 and Mark 1:35 What did both Moses and Jesus do to seek God? How can we follow their example today?

Seek God's Ways and Not Just His Deeds

Comment on this quote from Tommy Tenney in his book The God Chasers.

God is not coming to people who merely seek his benefits. He's coming to people who seek His face...We have sought his hands for too long. We want what He can do for us: we want His blessings, we want the chills and the thrills, we want the fishes and the loaves. Yet we shirk at the high commitment it takes to pursue His face. If you seek His face, what you get is his favor.....

Always Hunger for More

Read Exodus 33:18-20. What was Moses seeking when he asked God to show his glory? Read Exodus 33:21 -34:7. How did God respond to Moses' bold request? How will God respond to our request to show his glory?