

**REMINDER:** Go to <http://happenings.gracechapelchurch.com/> to view this week's bulletin, order of worship and songs we will enjoy together. Stay connected!

## The Presence of God

**BIG IDEA:** You cannot run from the presence of God but to enjoy the full and abundant life that Jesus came to give, you must run into His presence.

### ICE BREAKER

1. When in your life have you experienced the presence of God in a tangible way?
2. Was that a good experience? Describe what it was like.
3. Would it be possible for the presence of God not be a good thing? Explain.

### THINK

1. Give some Bible examples of people who tried to run from the presence of God.
2. Give some Bible examples of people who ran to the presence of God.
3. How did that work out for both groups of people?

### EXAMINE

#### Read **Exodus 33**

1. What stands out to you from the passage?
2. Does God's response to the Israelites seem harsh?
3. How can His response be seen as a gracious response?

#### Read **Genesis 3**

4. Why do you think Adam and Eve's first thought was to hide from the presence of God?
5. Both the Genesis and Exodus passages seem to be making the point that sin separates us from God. In what ways do you see this to be true in your life and the world?
6. What situations that you find yourself in cause you to want to remove yourself from God's presence? Afterwards, how does your relationship with God look and feel?

#### Back to the Israelites:

7. What do these verses reveal about Moses' relationship with God and the effect it had on others?
8. Look at the development of Moses' requests (vv. 13, 15, 18). How do they increase in spiritual wisdom and depth and reveal Moses' deepest desire?
9. What would you do if God said you could have your deepest desire in this life but He wouldn't be part of it? Would you be tempted to take it?
10. What are places that you experience (social groups, work, hobbies, church, etc.) where you see good things that you would like to see more centered on the presence of God?
  - In what ways have they gotten stale spiritually?
  - In what ways, if any, have they always lacked God's presence?

**THIS WEEK:** If you had the opportunity to meet God face to face this week would you take it? At first response, most would say yes, but there are some that honestly are not sure if that is something they would feel comfortable doing. Moses spent time with God daily and so desiring to meet with God face to face was a natural step in his relationship with God. Christ's death on the cross forever destroyed the barrier between us and God. Each and every one of us has an opportunity to seek after God's face. Make this a week where you run into God's presence with every part of your life. Ask to see a demonstration of His presence and experience the joy of a closer walk with Him.