

Presence or Promises?

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. Each week we hear a sermon that leads us into the reading for the week and shows us the Gospel thread throughout the story. We are learning that the story of Redemption is on full display from Genesis to Revelation. Both Old and New Testaments are one unified story that speaks of the beauty of God and the Redemption He has provided for us.

The children of Israel had seen God work mightily on their behalf as He poured out judgment on Egypt and Pharaoh. Through the 10 Plagues, the crossing of the Red Sea, and God giving Israel manna from heaven in the wilderness, the people of God saw the beauty, majesty, and glory of Yahweh. Just as promised by the Lord, the children of Israel arrived at Mount Sinai. At Mount Sinai Yahweh gave Moses the 10 Commandments and instructed him on how to approach Him in worship. The people excitedly ratified God's covenant and Moses returned to the mountain to receive more revelation from God.

In his book titled *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment*, Jim Hamilton said, "While Yahweh is revealing, instructing, and enabling, the people are busy forgetting, departing, and sinning." The people of God had experienced the blessings of God. They had seen their captors plagued in a variety of ways. They had been spared the death of their 1st born sons, they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, and ate bread from heaven in the wilderness. But the first chance they got, they turned away from worshiping the Creator and worshiped the creation. They had enjoyed all the gifts and blessings of God – but they didn't seem too concerned with whether or not God was among them, until God threatened them with leaving. In Exodus 33, God instructed Moses and the people to go up to the land He had promised but He would not go with them. If He did, He would certainly destroy them along the way because they were a "stiff-necked people." The people were about to receive the promises of God without the presence of God.

Chapter 33 was a defining moment for the people of Israel. Would they be satisfied with the promises of God without His presence? The answer, in spite of their constant turning away, is a resounding NO! The people learned they needed Yahweh's presence. As they watched Moses meet with Yahweh outside the camp, they worshipped expectantly at the doorways of their tents. Fortunately, Moses interceded for the people and God promised to go with them to the Promised Land.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community, think about this question: Do you desire the presence of God just as much as the promises of God? Also examine your need for His presence as you make disciples who make disciples. Just as Moses cried out to God for Him to show him His glory, let's cry out to God and ask Him to glorify Himself among His people as we seek His presence and not just His promises!

Message Outline

Do we desire the presence of God just as much as we desire the promises of God?

The Pattern of God's presence with His people:

- The Garden.
- The Tabernacle.
- Jesus.
- The Church.

We need His Presence for...

1. Direction in the Mission (12-14)

- His Word instructs us.
- His Spirit empowers us.
- His Church equips us.

2. Distinction in the World (15-17)

We are:

- Family.
- Servants.
- Missionaries.

3. Delight in Worship (18-23)

- We see His glory.
- We proclaim His Name.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Exodus 33:1-23:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Local:

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Global:

- Pray for workers as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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