

MESSAGE OUTLINE—TRUE COURAGE: DWELL

Exodus 33:12-23 (NIV)

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹ And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹ Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

True courage grows and matures as we dwell with God

1. ...who is _____. (vs. 12-13)
"I know you by name and you have found favor with me."

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings... **Hebrews 10:22**

Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command...for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."
John 15:14

2. ...who is _____. (vs 14-17)
"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **Acts 4:13**

3. ...who is _____. (vs 18-23)
"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you..."

...because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction...you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers...The Lord's message rang out from you—your faith in God has become known everywhere. **I Thessalonians 1:5-8**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
WEEK OF OCTOBER 18, 2020—TRUE COURAGE: DWELL

CONNECT:

- How is your soul? Start by trying to think of a word that describes the condition of your soul; then share why you choose that word.
- What characteristics are most important for you in friendships? Do you enjoy those same characteristics in your relationship with God?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:

Open in silence: Pause for two minutes to sit quietly, imagining yourself "with God."

Read the prayer aloud: This is a prayer of trust and guidance amidst the realities and uncertainties of life. It is written by Thomas Merton.

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

Reflect: What concerns in your own life does this prayer bring up for you? What does it feel like to be in God's presence as you identify your concerns, hopes, and desires? Write a short reflection or prayer expressing your thoughts with God.

Group Debrief: What in this prayer is most inviting to you? Which phrases speak to you of courage? How does it "en-courage" you?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- Read Exodus 33:12-23 aloud. Reflecting on this week's passage and message, what encourages you? How does this passage speak to your current life circumstance?
- Why is the presence or absence of God such a concern for Moses?
- What does this passage reveal about God's character and identity?
- How would you describe Moses based on this passage? What can we learn from Moses about what "dwelling with God" looks like?
- What role does listening to God's voice play in your decision making? What does that look like for you?
- Describe a time when you absolutely knew that you needed God's presence to move forward.
- Where in your life do you feel like you are in the "cleft of a rock," where you might draw courage from God's presence and revelation to you?
- How are we to continue to fulfill God's purpose to "distinguish his people" as a witness to God's presence?
- What do you sense is the importance and connection between God's name, God's presence, and God's glory?

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Prayer Requests: Is there an area of your life where you desire God's guidance and presence? Looking toward the week ahead, how would you like us to pray for you?

Pray for one another, ending with the Benediction (from Psalm 121)
I will lift up my eyes to the mountains--where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth...may the Lord watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen

DAILY PRACTICE: Continue to spend time with God daily in Solitude, Scripture, and Prayer (download Reading Plan and Playlist from website to guide you). As you spend time with God, pray that his presence will radiate through you into the world. Think of someone who needs to know the presence and goodness of God today; pray for them. Journal your thoughts.