

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 10.29.2023

LEARNING TO LINGER – EXODUS 33:6-11

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel says, “In last week’s message, Joshua taught us how to defeat our enemy through the power of prayer. Today, we’re going to learn how to linger in the presence of God. The word linger means ‘to stay in a place longer than necessary because of a reluctance to leave.’ That’s not a concept that fits easily in today’s fast paced world. Who has time to linger? There are places to go and appointments to keep and things to do. In a world where schedules tend to be jammed with more tasks than there are hours in a day, lingering feels like a luxury we can’t afford, but that’s exactly what makes it necessary. Many of us are living at a speed and pace that is unsustainable and it shows. Researchers have found that the current generation of Americans are the most anxious, depressed, and stressed-out in history. I’m sure there are many contributing factors helping fuel this crisis but one of them has to be our inability to slow down and be present. We need to learn from Moses how to slow down and linger in God’s presence.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Pastor Daniel’s sermon?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 32:35 TO 33:6 TO GET THE BACKGROUND

1. Have someone read the above passage and summarize what had happened to cause the Lord to be angry with the Israelites?
2. In spite of Israel’s sin, God still Promised to bless Israel. In what ways would God bless the Israelites, explain? (vs 1-2)
3. But sadly the Lord made a statement in 33:3-4 that caused the people to mourn, what was it and why did God say this?
4. Are there times that you have sought the blessing of God above the presence of God, explain some ways that we can tend to do this?
5. In what ways did the Israelites mourn their sin and how should we mourn over our sin?

We began our lesson by reading the promise that God gave to the people of Israel right after they had sinned by worshiping the golden calf. God promised that He would take the people of Israel to the land which He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God also said that He would send an angel before Israel to drive out the people who lived in the land. God said that the land that He was going to give them was a land flowing with milk and honey. However, God said that He would not be among the people as they went up to that land because of their sin.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 33:6-11.

1. What was the “Tent of Meeting,” explain?

“PROMISES” in 2023

2. Why would Moses go out to the Tent and who else would go out and why?
3. What if you were one of the Israelites watching Moses at the tent of meeting and then seeing the cloud come and hover at the tent. Describe how you would feel and what you would think about Moses?
4. In what way do Christians have a “Tent of Meeting today?” explain?
5. In your opinion, why do you think that Moses didn’t set up the tent of meeting in the middle of the camp, but instead set it up a distance away?
6. How would you describe what it means to be in the Lord’s presence? What’s that like?
7. Pastor Danile talked about the difference between God’s abiding presence and His manifest presence? Explain the Difference?

There’s a difference between God’s abiding presence and His manifest presence. When God manifests His presence, the God who is always there suddenly becomes tangible and discernable to you. Have you ever walked into a room and immediately felt the presence of God in that place? That’s what I’m talking about. We see an example of this in the book of Genesis with Jacob. After encountering the Lord in a dream wherein he saw a ladder extending from heaven to earth with angels ascending and descending on it, he woke up and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not.’ God was already there, but in that moment, Jacob suddenly became aware of that presence.

1. God delights when we desire to come into His presence. Read James 4:8 and explain how to experience the Lord’s presence.

Oftentimes people feel unworthy to approach God on their own. We look for someone else to represent us before the Lord. The Israelites had already begun to do this with Moses. The problem with trying to worship from a distance is that it makes intimacy difficult to achieve because intimacy requires proximity. Satan wants you to believe that you have no right to draw near. He wants you to stay back, but Jesus invites you to come closer!

2. Read Hebrews 10:19-22 and explain what Jesus has done for us and why we can approach God boldly?

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Someone once keenly observed that if Satan can’t succeed at making us bad, he’ll settle for keeping us busy. If you’re too busy to spend time with the Lord, then you’re too busy. Martin Luther had a full schedule as the leader of the reformation movement. The demands on his time were intense. With so much on his plate, he discovered that the only way to get it all done was by spending more time in prayer. Here’s how he put it, ‘Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer!’ That’s counterintuitive, but it’s true. The only way you’ll ever be able to accomplish everything God has for you is to hear directly from Him.

1. What if God promised you everything you ever wanted, but no relationship with Him? Is it worth it? Why or why not?
2. How can you set aside a time and place regularly, to spend time with God and linger in His presence?
3. Make a commitment to the Lord to regularly meet with Him and prioritize your relationship with Him as number one!

PRAYER: Have a few moments of silence in your group to listen to the Lord and seek His presence. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit and just have time to worship Him and sing a song together. He is worthy!

“Be still in the presence of the Lord and wait patiently for Him to act. Don’t worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.” {Psalm 37:7}

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