

Servants for His Glory

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Lesson Title: “Be a Servant of His Presence” (pp. 49-63)

Session 4

March 24, 2024

The main point of this lesson is: God’s servants long for His presence.

Focus on this goal: To help adults seek God’s presence

Key Bible Passage: Exodus 33:13-15

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Invite the group to determine the wording of an invitation they might send out for a special occasion. State formal invitations often begin with “The honor of your presence is requested . . . .” Ask: Why might we desire someone’s presence at our event? Why might we consider their presence an honor? Declare: Servants for God’s glory long for God’s presence, not just for special occasions, but for every minute of our lives.

Step 2. Introduction

Read the first sentence Day One (p. 49). Ask: What does God’s omnipresence mean? What does it mean to long for God’s presence if He’s already everywhere?

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (pp. 50-51). Evaluate what walking with the Lord truly looks like in a believer’s daily life.

Declare we can learn about being a servant of God’s presence from Moses. Read Exodus 33:11a.

Step 3. How a Servant of His Presence Thinks

Briefly **summarize** Exodus 32. **State** Exodus 33:1-6 is God’s response to the golden calf incident. **Discuss** Day Two, activity 1 (p. 51).

**Explain** in Exodus 17:7 the Israelites tested God by asking, “Is the Lord among us or not?” The answer was “Yes,” with a divine victory over an invading army (Ex. 17:8-15). **Consider** why the answer to their question is “No” in Exodus 33. **Evaluate** how God was still showing grace and mercy to the Israelites.

**Explain** Moses’s reaction to God’s response begins in Exodus 33:12. **Direct** learners back to Day One, activity 1 (p. 50) and **lead** them to discuss that question. **Read** Exodus 33:15. **Ask:** *Why wasn’t Moses satisfied with the prospect of an angel leading the Israelites?*

**Invite** a volunteer to read the Day Two paragraph (p. 52) beginning with “One might think
. . . .” **Invite** volunteers to describe a time in their lives when they prayed something along the lines of, “Lord, I don’t desire Your angel or Your blessing in this circumstance, I just want and need YOU!”

**Urge** adults to silently consider Day Two, activity 2 (p. 52). Inquire: *What are some requests Moses could have, maybe even logically should have, asked of God? What was his first request instead? How is desiring to know God’s ways a way of seeking God’s presence?*

Step 4. Be a Servant Who Desires to Know God’s Ways, Part 1

**Note** Days Three and Four examine what it means to be a servant who desires to know God’s ways. **Consider** what Moses was acknowledging about himself by expressing a desire to know God’s ways.

**Read** the first two italicized statements in Day Three (pp. 54-55). **Point out** Moses already had a relationship with God, but, just as he wasn’t satisfied with an angel, he wasn’t satisfied with that relationship, he wanted to continually know God in a deeper, more intimate way.

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 55). **Acknowledge** we may struggle with the idea of boasting. **Explain** “boast” can mean to “glory in” or “celebrate.” **Guide** the group to determine from Jeremiah 9:23-24 three things not worth glorying in and why. Then **determine** what is worth glorying in and why.

**Invite** a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. **Determine** some really good reasons to boast in the Lord. **Consider** why the passages in Jeremiah 9 and 1 Corinthians 1 should compel believers to want to ask God to show them more of Himself so we can know Him more deeply.

Step 5. Be a Servant Who Desires to Know God’s Ways, Part 2

**Read** the first italicized statement in Day Four (p. 56). **Consider** what believers often desire instead of God’s will, especially in difficult situations. **Discuss** Day Four, activity 1 (p. 56).

**Read** the second italicized statement in Day Four (p. 56). **Invite** a volunteer to read Exodus 33:14. **Consider** the kind of rest God was promising Moses. **Discuss** Day Four, activity 2 (p. 57).

**Invite** someone to read Exodus 33:15-18. **Analyze** what else we can determine about a servant of God’s presence from Moses’s requests. **Use** the last two sections of Day Four (p. 57-58) to **add to** the discussion. **Read** Psalm 103:7 and **declare** God answered Moses’s prayer to teach him His ways.

**Ask** adults if they agree with the Day Four Note (p. 58) and why.

Step 6. The Ways of God

**Use** the section headings in Day Five (pp. 58-59) to briefly **highlight** the ways of God.

**Invite** responses to Day Five, activity 1 (p. 60).

**Read** the Day Five Note (p. 60).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Invite two volunteers to read Exodus 33:17 and John 10:3. Ask: What does it mean to you that God knows you by name? How does that compel you to long for His presence? What are ways you can seek God’s presence daily? State one way is to pray, meditate on, and memorize Psalm 63 (see Day Five, activity 2, p. 60).

Close in prayer.

