



Presence Over Performance

This past week, Pastor Cam shared with us on the importance of presence with God over performance to God through friendship with God, and how cultivating friendship with God through presence creates an overflow into our relationship with others.

LOOKING BACK:

FAMILY TIME (25 min)

- Vision Statement: Explain the vision of your lifegroup.
- Intro Question: What is one way you enjoy being present with others (over a cup of coffee, playing games, anything!)?
- Time of Praise Reports, Prayer Requests, and checking in on previous week - You can put this in if there was a specific action point from the previous week.

LOOKING UP:

WORSHIP (20 min)

- Spend time in worship together.
- Some possible song suggestions:

I See Heaven - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG4yQD5CUIA> [5 min]

Do It Again - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQIITxU [6.5 min]

Fullness - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7dLSqInk_c [6 min]

BIBLE STUDY (20 min)

Exodus 33:1-17 NLT:

33 The Lord said to Moses, "Get going, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt. Go up to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I told them, 'I will give this land to your descendants.' 2 And I will send an angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 3 Go up to this land that flows with milk and honey. But I will not travel among you, for you are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I did, I would surely destroy you along the way."

4 When the people heard these stern words, they went into mourning and stopped wearing their jewelry and fine clothes. 5 For the Lord had told Moses to tell them, "You are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I were to travel with you for even a moment, I would destroy you. Remove your jewelry and fine clothes while I decide what to do with you." 6 So from the time they left Mount Sinai, the Israelites wore no more jewelry or fine clothes.

7 It was Moses' practice to take the Tent of Meeting and set it up some distance from the camp. Everyone who wanted to make a request of the Lord would go to the Tent of Meeting outside the camp.

8 Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in the entrances of their own tents. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared inside. 9 As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at its entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. 10 When the people saw the cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, they would stand and bow down in front of their own tents. 11 Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.

12 One day Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Take these people up to the Promised Land.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, 'I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.' 13 If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people."

14 The Lord replied, "I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you."

15 Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place. 16 How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.”

17 The Lord replied to Moses, “I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name.”

DBS questions:

- 1) What strikes you from this passage?
- 2) What do you learn about people?
- 3) What do you learn about God?
- 4) How does Moses’ friendship with God inspire or encourage you in this text?

LOOKING FORWARD (20–30 minutes)

Time of Intercession – One of the ways Pastor Cam highlighted how our being present in friendship with God overflows into our friendship with others is through intercession. Pastor Cam defined intercession as this: Sharing our hearts for others with God. This means bringing the real, felt needs expressed to us through our friendship with others to God on their behalf.

In our text today, we saw how Moses interceded on behalf of the Israelites with God’s favor in friendship. His intercession on their behalf actually kept them from losing God’s presence altogether! That’s incredible!

The Power of interceding for others is so strong and so real as we saw among Moses and the Israelites. Let’s take some time interceding for the real, felt needs our friends have expressed to us through our friendship with them.

Pastor Janet and Pastor Cam also mentioned intercession on behalf of our brothers and sisters of color in light of the continued racial injustice and police brutality we see happening in our world today. Let’s take some time to pray together for God’s divine intervention, peace, and protection over all.

KIDS’ LESSON SUGGESTION:

Watch this quick video with your kiddos on Moses and the Tent of Meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEkg4JxItrY&list=PL5aPdmniG3y_n7hXEKTV4qQnleCe-p6Ws&index=77

Then, discuss these questions with them:

- 1) What is the tent of meeting?
- 2) What do you think Moses and God talked about in the tent of meeting?
- 3) Were Moses and God friends? How do you know, if so?
- 4) What does your friendship with God look like?
- 5) What do you like to talk to God about?

Finish by spending some time talking/praying to God with your kiddos. Encourage them to talk with God in prayer the same way they would talk to any other friend. :)