



Face To Face

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

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Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments. Providing scriptures and some background helps to spur direct the discussion. Depending on the response of those participating in the study, additional questions may be required to direct them to the necessary understanding. If you are going to lead a group discussion, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points and answers. If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary and then answer the questions on the Study Section. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references. In particular, books that are not part of the Bible. If a scripture seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions. Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion that will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. The answers presented herein, are not the final answers. These answers serve as a guide.

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About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.



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Summary

Exodus describes how Moses spoke to God, face to face, an uncommon experience at that time. Very few people are described in the Word, the same level of relationship with God as Moses did. In part, this was due to Adam's fall which created a gulf between man and God. A gulf generated by the deception and fear that were the fruit of the seeds of doubt that were sown in the Garden of Eden by the serpent. In order to bridge this gulf, God paid an unimaginable price through His Son, Jesus Christ. God's willingness to pay the ultimate price for us declares His desire for a relationship that is deeper than religion would have us see. This study explores what it means to have a face to face relationship with God and how to pursue it.



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Leaders Guide

Moses placed a special tent outside of the camp of the Children of Israel. He called that tent the Tabernacle of the Congregation and designated it for seeking the LORD and meeting with the people. Today we would call it a place of prayer or a sanctuary.

Exodus 33:7

- 7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.

Exodus 33:7 (AMP)

- 7 Now Moses used to take [his own] tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting [of God with His own people]. And everyone who sought the Lord went out to [that temporary] tent of meeting which was outside the camp.

Question

- 1) Why did Moses place his tent far away from the Camp?
 - This afforded him quite time with the LORD away from the noise of the camp and the demands of the people.
- 2) Why was the Moses' tent called the "tent of meeting [of God with His own people]" ?
 - The tent of Moses was where God chose to meet with the people and where Moses met to judge and teach the people.

{Note: The Tabernacle that contained the Ark, described in Exodus 26-27 had yet to be built. Work on the Tabernacle that contained the Ark begins in Exodus 35.}

Exodus 13:20-22

- 20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.
- 21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:
- 22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Question

- 3) What was the purpose of the pillar of the cloud and the pillar of fire?
 - The pillar of fire provided protection, guidance, light and a sign that God was with them.

In their journey through the wilderness God provided them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The cloud directed their path and shielded them from the sun. The pillar of fire provided warmth and light during the night while they camped. Both were significant signs from God that He was with them, would direct their steps and provide for them.

When the Egyptians pursued them after they had left the slavery of Egypt, the angel of God in the form of the pillar of the cloud made a barrier between the Children of Israel and the Egyptian army. The Egyptians saw a dark cloud that blocked their way and hide the Children of Israel. That same cloud provided light to the Children of Israel.



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Exodus 14:19-20

- 19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:
- 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Question

- 4) Symbolically, who were the Egyptians?
 - Those who do not know Christ, those who have rejected Him, as well as the enemy.

Without His Spirit in us, His Word and ways are hidden in darkness. It is only when we accept the truth of God's love for us and the work of the Cross that we begin to see and understand.

John 1:1-5

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Question

- 5) If you are not drawn by God can you find your way to join those who are in Christ? Support your answer with scriptural references.
 - No. It only by the working of His Spirit that we are drawn unto Him through Christ.
John 6:44 - No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...
John 6:65 - ...no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

The cloud that God provided to the Children of Israel by God served two purposes when He placed it between them and the Egyptian army. It provided light and a protective shield for the Children of Israel. To the Egyptian army it was a dark barrier that they could not pass. While scripture does not make it clear if they feared to try to penetrate the cloud or could not enter it. Either way, the cloud kept the Children of Israel safe while they crossed the Red Sea.

Question

- 6) Why was the pillar or the cloud darkness to the Egyptians?
 - The things of God can not be comprehended by those who are not part of Him.
- 7) How can we apply what God did for Israel regarding the Egyptians to ourselves?
 - God is our protector, our shield, our guide. He hides us in Him from those that would seek to destroy us.

Symbolically, the cloud represents the hand of God protecting His people (that includes believers today) from their enemy. It also represents God's Word which those who do not know Him can not comprehend.

John 1:4-5

- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.



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The enemy can not understand nor see the Absolute Truth nor see the light. For those who choose to believe a lie, the truth can not be seen.

Exodus 33:8 - 10

- 8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.
- 9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.
- 10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.

The passage in Exodus 33:8 through 10, paints a picture of the relationship between Moses and God. It also shows where the people were at in their relationship with God. The people clearly recognized that Moses was talking with God as expressed by their worship. Where they stood, also speaks of how they viewed God and themselves.

Question

- 8) What happened when Moses would enter into the tabernacle?
 - The pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent.
- 9) Where did God talk with Moses?
 - In the tabernacle tent
- A) Why there?
 - It was a place set aside to meet with God.
- 10) Where did the pillar of cloud descend?
 - At the door of the tent.

The tabernacle or tent of meeting, so named by Moses, was pitched outside the camp. It was a place where Moses talked with God. When Moses went out to the tent, the cloudy pillar descended to the door of the tent. The cloudy pillar contained God's presence.

Question

- 11) When you accept Christ what does God do?
 - He dwells in us.

John 14:23

- 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love Me, he will keep My words: an My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
- 12) Why is that important to you?
 - Because He chooses to dwell with us, we can not be separated from Him; even when we feel like He is far away. Such feelings are a mater of where we are at, not where He is at.

Exodus 33:11

- 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

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Note how Moses and the LORD spoke to each other, as a man speaks to a friend. Their conversation was personal and an exchange. Moses did not just talk to God, he spoke with God; meaning, he listened to what God was saying. When you are talking to a friend, you do more than just list problems and needs for them to deal with. You discuss what is going on, get advice, express appreciation, enquire how the other is doing, sometimes even exchange a joke or two. Both God and Moses took time to talk with each other. Moses did not just talk to God.

Question

- 13) Where was Joshua when Moses would speak with God?
 - In the tent with Moses.
- 14) What did Joshua do when Moses would leave the tent after talking with God.
 - Remain in the tent for a time.

The fact that Joshua was in the tent while Moses talked with God and then remained behind afterwards speaks of his desire to be in God's presence. Even though he was not part of the conversation between God and Moses, he was in the area with God's presence. He might have also been privileged to listen in on their conversation.

Exodus 33:12 - 13

- 12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.
- 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Question

- 15) Why did Moses ask God to show him His ways?
 - Moses wanted to walk in God's favor and to please Him. The only way to do that was to live according to God's ways.

Exodus 33:14 - 16

- 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.
- 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.
- 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Question

- 16) When God says, "I know thee by name" what is He indicating?
 - The statement relays a level of relationship. Some people you know by face, but do not know their names. You may be friendly with them, but you do not know them and they do not know you.
- A) What is the difference that we enjoy?
 - We have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby our hearts cry Abba-Father to Him. Not only does God know us by name, but we have become His children.

Romans 8:15

- 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.



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While Moses had a close relationship with God, we have a closer relationship because of the work of the Cross. God has adopted us as His children. That said, there is great value in pursuing a closer relationship with God. The fact is, we can have as close of a relationship with God as we desire. It is just an issue of pursuing it.

Exodus 33:20 - 23

- 20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.
- 21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:
- 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:
- 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

While the word used in verse 11 and 20 of Exodus 33 are the same, there is a difference in the meaning expressed by the way the word is used. The phrase "Face to face" in verse 11 is a figurative expression, while "Face" in verse 12 relays a literal meaning. "Face to face" relays an open and direct discussion. "Face" in verse 12 references God's actual face. This is one of those areas where the limitations of the English language is seen, while the original Hebrew text relays a clearer meaning.

Question

- 17) Where did God tell Moses to stand in Exodus 33:21?
 - Upon a rock.
- A) Symbolically, what do that rock represent?
 - Jesus, the corner stone. The Rock from whom pours forth living waters; having been once stricken so that we could be set free from sin.
- 18) Where did God place Moses when His glory passed by?
 - Within a cleft of the rock. A place where he was shielded by the rock.
- A) Symbolically, what does this represent?
 - We are hidden in Christ so that we can stand in His presence.
- B) What does God's covering Moses with His hand as He passed by signify?
 - God provided him with the favor he needed and the protection through Christ so that he would not be destroyed by God's glory.
- 19) What is the main difference between our relationship with God and that which Moses had?
 - Our sins are not just covered, they have been cleansed.
- A) What does that mean for you?
 - We can come boldly into the presence of God without fear. That which separated us from God has been removed.

God placed Moses in a cleft of the rock, representing Jesus Christ, as He passed by. Moses was unable to see God's face because of the nature of sin in man. Jesus Christ paid the full price for our sin, which means we can stand in God's presence.

Luke 10:38 - 42

- 38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.
- 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
- 40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.



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- 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:
- 42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Questions

- 20) How would you describe Martha?
- Busy with work; careful and troubled about many things; but not mindful of the most important thing.
- 21) How would you describe Mary?
- More concern about being in the presence of the LORD than the demands of her culture, her sister or the need for work to be done.
- 22) Was Joshua more of a Martha or a Mary?
- Like Mary, Joshua choose the presence of God, over the work that needed to be done. He lingered after Moses left the tent after talking with God.
- 23) Is being like Martha a risk?
- We can become consumed by our work, our lives, even ministry, and loose sight of our relationship with God.

Unto the church of Ephesus and the church of the Laodiceans (Revelations 2:1-7, 3:15-22); Jesus chastised them for allowing their first love for Him to wain. They both were busy with the work of the church and lived in difficult times. Both failed to focus on their relationship with God.

Question

- 24) How can you have God in your tent instead of talking with you at the door?

{ Leader have your class or group pounder this question, even pray about it. The answer is the key point to this study and it is key to your relationship with God. Listen to God's Spirit as to how you want to handle a class or group discussion on the answer to this question. Encourage your class or group to pursue the Face in a greater way. }

The attention that we give to our relationship with God, the effort that we put into that relationship, has a direct effect on our walk with God. Our relationship with God and our understanding of His Word will determine how we handle difficult circumstances. It will also determine whether we continue that relationship or allow it to fade away.

God never promised us a life without difficulties. He did promise to bring us through every circumstance, every difficulty if we trust in Him. We all have dreams and desires, if we will pursue a personal relationship with Him, then we will see those dreams and desires answered. Those things that are important to us and those things that we desire to do or have that are not contrary to His Word, are important to Him.

Consider, in your times of prayer, are you seeking His face, seeking to spend quality time with Him, or just seeking an answer to your needs or desires? Are you seeking His face or just His hand?



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Study Questions

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and blending the works of man, in particular false books, will hinder your walk and understanding.

Read

Exodus 33:7-23

John 1:1-5

John 14:23

Revelations 2:1-7

Exodus 13:20-22

John 6:44

Romans 8:15

Revelations 3:15-22

Exodus 14:19-20

John 6:65

Luke 10:38 - 42

Questions

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- 2) Why was the Moses' tent called the "tent of meeting [of God with His own people]" ?
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- 5) If you are not drawn by God can you find your way to join those who are in Christ? Support your answer with scriptural references.
- 6) Why was the pillar or the cloud darkness to the Egyptians?
- 7) How can we apply what God did for Israel regarding the Egyptians to ourselves?
- 8) What happened when Moses would enter into the tabernacle?
- 9) Where did God talk with Moses?
 - A) Why there?
- 10) Where did the pillar of cloud descend?



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- 11) When you accept Christ what does God do?
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