

DISCUSSION:

Discuss the question cluster below

(As much or as little as works for your group and in any order you like)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're concluding our sermon series called, "Exodus: Out of Darkness. Into Light." In it we focused on the story of God delivering his people out of the darkness of the soul-crushing oppression, enslavement and genocide they faced in Egypt and into the light of life with him. The hope was that through this story we would come to see the persistence of God's light, hope and faithfulness amidst the frequent darkness in our own lives and our world.

I. **This week**, (Ex. 18:1-3a, 5-9, 12-24, 27) **we spent time talking about what it's like when you actually meet God. We saw that when God comes to meet his people in person, he defies our neat categories and expectations. However, he also provides a way for us to meet with him in all his other-worldly nature: he calls us to adjust to his presence (be consecrated) and to listen to him. These two things (adjusting and listening) are the ways God uses to bring our human nature into contact with his divine nature. And he most ultimately does that through Jesus Christ, who is able to bring not just a few people (like Moses and Aaron) but a whole people into the presence of God through his death on our behalf. Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.**

- A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?
- B. When you think about your relationship to God, does he tend to feel more unapproachable and intimidating (hard to relate to) or approachable and welcoming (easy to relate to and not requiring much change on your part)?
 1. *Through this scene in Ex.19, how might God be calling you to recognize that he is still approachable, despite his intimidating nature OR that despite his approachability, he is also very different and you do need to change to have relationship with him?*
- C. Where is God calling you to adjust to him and his nature, rather than to have him adjust to you?
 1. *Where is he calling you to do something different, to pause, to refrain, to take special care with someone or something?*
 2. *What help do you need from God to do that?*
 3. *Where will it require faith to lean on God and adjust that way?*
 4. *Where do you need to trust that Jesus really can 'bring you onto the mountain' – even you?*