

## SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE

### Warm-up

1. How has the last week been for you? How have you felt tense or anxious because of what is happening around you?
2. Have you been aware of the presence of God? Share experiences in your group of God turning up in your or other people's lives.

### READ EXODUS 33:7-23

At this point the Israelites were condemned by their own actions to wander in the desert. They had been through the awe-inspiring process of receiving the law of God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20) but then immediately made an idol of a golden calf to worship. Now a new reality was settling in. God was still present with them in the fire and pillar of cloud that directed them and then signified God's presence. But only Moses met with God and that was outside the camp. And for Moses the burden of leading the people was becoming heavy.

1. What was the relationship of the people with God during this time? (v 8-11). Do you get an impression of distance?
2. In contrast, what was Moses' relationship with God? (v 11, v14)
3. Do you think that our relationship with God can swing from closeness to distance? Have you been aware of such times in your life? What sort of things prompt distance from God?
4. But Moses was finding the job a heavy burden. Why do you think this was (v7)? What did Moses seek more than anything else? (v 18).
5. Are there times in your Christian life that you find going on a heavy burden?
6. How did God respond to Moses? (v 17, v19-23).
7. How has God provided for us to know Him? (Phil 4:6-7, John 14:9, 12-14, 15-17)

### Conclusion:

1. In his sermon, Paul Summers talked about getting into the habits of right practices, right speaking and right experiences in knowing God better. What would these things look like in day-to-day living for us?
2. How else can we seek a greater awareness of God's presence? Share any experiences with the group that were important to you.
3. What did A W Tozer mean when he said that we need to do the hard work of stillness?
4. Pray this prayer this week: O Lord, I need more of You, the task is too great and I am too weak, I need more of You"