

Hills & Valleys

Week 1

We experience God on the mountains, but we become like God in the valleys

Then Moses said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

[Exodus 33:15-16]

1. Mountain of God's Presence

We'd rather stay in the wilderness with God than go into the promised land without Him

Mountain of God's Presence means we're a "Presence-driven" church

2. Mountain of God's Character

"Be ready in the morning...Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain."

[Exodus 34:2]

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the Lord. And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

[Exodus 34:5-7]

See who God is, not who we want Him to be

Mountain of God's Character means we're a "Bible-based" church

3. Mountain of God's Grace

...slow to anger...

[Exodus 34:6]

Lit. "long of nostril"

"Never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking love of God."

Jesus Storybook Bible

Abraham brought all these to Him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other.

[Genesis 15:10]

As the sun was setting, Abraham fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him...When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abraham.

[Genesis 15:12,17-18]

Mountain of God's Grace means we're a "Jesus-centered" church

4. Mountain of God's Favor

Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in the entrance of their own tents...As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at its entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. 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.

[Exodus 33:8-10]

"Sometimes you have to preach to people; sometimes you have to just pray for people."

Prayer: cultivates friendship with God

Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

[Exodus 33:11]

Tent: regular place in a separated space

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.

[Exodus 33:11]

Prayer: activates and inspires the next generation

Mountain of God's Favor means we're a "multiplying" church