

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHAT IF I EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF GOD?

Exodus 3

Pastor Miles McPherson – February 15, 2015

Pastor Miles encouraged us to pay attention to be aware of God's presence; we were created to "just know" it is God through our experience with Him. As learned in Sunday's sermon, there should be evidence (ie: peace, power, or wisdom) of being in God's presence—especially during a fast. In order to recognize God's voice, we should also be spending time seeking him through his word, then when we hear something from the Lord, we compare it with the word. He will *never* contradict his word!

MEMORY VERSES

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye."
Psalms 32:8

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Share a time when you believed you were aware of God's presence. Describe what you felt, saw or heard. What was the result of being in God's presence?

STUDY QUESTIONS

READ Acts 10:9-22

1. With which human senses did God allow Peter to experience Him?
2. What was Peter doing before seeing the vision?
3. In verse 13, God instructed Peter to "Rise, kill and eat" the animals on the blanket. Why would this be difficult for Peter, a devout Jewish person?
4. What correction or lesson did Peter learn while in God's presence? (v15)
5. What was the vision a preparation for? How do you think Peter would have responded to the visitors from Cornelius if he hadn't had the vision & encounter with God? (v17)
6. In what other way did Peter become aware that he was going to be used by God?
7. What are some ways that you can be prepared to encounter God this week?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Break into groups of 3 or 4 people:

1. Pray the words of Psalm 27:8 back to the Lord: *My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."*

2. Spend some time giving thanks and praising God for different areas of life.

Keep prayers short, and feel free to pray multiple times.

[NOTE TO LEADER: Instruct the group that you will introduce one area at a time, then each person can praise and thank God for specific things or ways that God is working in that area. When a topic is exhausted, move to the next – Leaders start by praying for the next area to guide your LIFE Group. You can group some of the areas if you'd like.]

Areas of Praise:

- Family
- Friends
- Work
- Grace
- Love
- Strength and power
- Provision
- Protection
- Wisdom
- Compassion
- Hope

3. Pray for personal needs for each other to conclude your prayer time

TAKE IT HOME!

Try to set aside a block of time (at least 10 minutes) each day in the coming week to pray to God. Be honest with God about your feelings and desires.

- Praise him for his greatness and the things God has done.
- Thank God for his goodness he has shown to you and your family.
- Pray for any needs that God brings to your mind – for yourself, for your family, for your neighbors, for your co-workers.
- Ask God for growth in your relationship with Him through prayer in this next week.

