



## Topic: In Awe of God's Presence

### Pray:

Heavenly Father, I come before You in awe of Your presence. You are the Alpha and Omega, the Creator of all things. Thank You for the privilege of seeking You in prayer. Help me to be aware of Your nearness as I come before You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Meditate:

#### Scripture: Exodus 33:14-16 (ESV)

**"And he said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?'"**

The book of Exodus chronicles the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to their establishment as a nation in the Promised Land. After their deliverance from Egypt and the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites found themselves in the wilderness, learning to trust and follow God's guidance.

In Exodus 33, we encounter a pivotal moment where Moses, the chosen leader of the Israelites, pleads with God to continue His presence and favor with the nation. Prior to this, the Israelites had sinned by fashioning a golden calf for worship while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments. Due to their unfaithfulness, God threatened to withdraw His presence and send the Israelites to the Promised Land accompanied only by an angel.

Understanding the gravity of losing God's presence, Moses takes a stand on behalf of the Israelites. He intimately grasps that without the continual presence of God, their journey and any future success would be meaningless. Moses recognizes that the presence of God is not only a privilege but also the distinguishing mark that sets them apart as a chosen people.

In response to Moses' plea, God mercifully reassures him of His presence. God's presence was symbolized by a cloud resting above the tabernacle, leading and protecting the Israelites throughout their journey in the wilderness.

**Practical Application:**

1. Recognizing the surpassing value of God's presence: The dialogue between Moses and God reveals the immeasurable worth of God's presence. As believers, we are reminded that our greatest reward is not temporal success or earthly possessions, but the opportunity to have an intimate relationship with our Creator. Cultivating a desire to seek God's presence above all else allows us to experience genuine peace, rest, and fulfillment.

2. Living as a distinct people: The insistence of Moses to have God's presence accompany them highlights the importance of maintaining a set-apart lifestyle. As Christians, we are called to reflect God's character and values in our daily lives. By doing so, we become a distinct people, set apart from the world, and bear witness to the reality of God's presence among us.

**Discussion Questions:**

**For Students:**

1. How does knowing that God's presence goes with you impact the way you navigate the challenges and temptations of your daily life?
2. In what practical ways can you seek and experience God's presence in your school and among your peers?

**For Parents:**

1. How can we communicate to our children the importance of seeking and valuing God's presence above all else?
2. In what ways can our family display God's presence in the way we live and interact with others?

**For Professionals:**

1. In the midst of your busy professional life, how can you seek God's presence and find rest and peace?
2. How can you be a distinct and influential presence for God in your workplace or industry?

