

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – September 13, 2020**

**Theme: The Certainty of God's Word      Topic: God's Promise of His Presence**

**Main Text: Exodus 33: 12-23**

**Key verse:** Hebrews 13:5 *'Let your conduct be without covetousness, be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you"'* (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** When you invite someone to your party, you are more pleased if the invitee shows up in person than with a representative. That was Moses' situation in Exodus 33. God has commanded Moses to lead the people to the promised land. But because of the matter of the golden calf, God told Moses He was not going to go with them, that He will instead, send an angel lest He destroyed them on the way (Exodus 33:1-3). A person's presence is the embodiment of his/her aura, existence, authority, and personality. Adam and Eve knew God's Presence until they sinned and had to hide from Him. Jonah on his part tried to flee from His Presence. But Moses would rather risk being destroyed by God's wrath than to set out without His Presence. He knew that no angel, not even the pillar of cloud and fire could compare with God's very presence. And he desperately pleaded for God's presence (Exodus 33:15-16).

1. (a) **Why do you think Moses was desperate for God's Presence despite the risk and despite God's promise of an angel?** (b) **How does Exodus 33:15-19 help your understanding of Moses' insistence for God's Presence?** (c) **How would that apply to us today?**

Moses teaches us in this encounter that having God's presence is far better than anything or blessing or angel God sends our way. And like Moses and the Israelites at Sinai, we are inclined to sin and risk God's wrath. Yet we need His Presence if we are to make it to the 'promised land.' And it takes God's offer of His grace to resolve that dilemma. So Moses quickly latches on to that offer in his petitions to God: *"If I have found grace in your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight"* (Exodus 33 13).

2. (a) **The phrases 'find/found grace' and 'know you by name' are repeated five and two times, respectively in Exodus 33: 12-17. Discuss their implications and bearing on the promise of His Presence.** (b) **What can we learn from Moses' persistent request in asking for grace and that he may know God?** (c) **How does Jesus Christ resolve the cry of Moses for us? See Matthew 1:23; Ephesians 1:3-7; John 1:12**

From the time of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Genesis 15:1; 26:3; 28:15) and Moses together with the whole congregation of Israel, the promise of His Presence was fulfilled through God's grace. It is the same for us today, that in Christ, we continue to experience God's promised presence. Jesus reiterated the promise of His continued Presence: *'And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper that He may be with you forever* (John 14: 16). *'... and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the earth'* (Matthew 28: 20). God's Presence in our lives separates us from the rest of the world to show forth His praises (Exodus 33:16; 1 Peter 2:9). So, as the book of Hebrews concludes its exhortation to believers in a difficult world, this presence of God becomes an anchor for believers.

3. (a) **In Hebrews 13:5-6, what evidence does God expect of those who are conscious of His presence.** (b) **in what practical ways can this knowledge of God's continuous Presence help us in these times?**

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**Prayer:** *Our dear Father, we thank You for Your Presence with us always, even to the end of the age. Help us to grow in and walk in this consciousness of Your abiding presence. Amen*