

**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, and Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach about us?**

- a) Read Exodus 33:3-6. Pst. Akin said we can cherish God's promises, systems of works-based righteousness, spiritual growth, and heaven more than God himself. How have you experienced this in your life?
- b) Pst. Akin mentioned that we see God as a *means* to get what we want rather than seeing Him as the beginning, entirety, and end of our life and worship. How do we worship God as a means to get our desires (good or evil)?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God? Read Exodus 33:4-6 and James 4:6-10**

- a) Because God is Holy and hates sin, he deserves and commands our complete allegiance, whereby we mourn about our sins. In what ways can our worship with our emotions show that we detest sin as God does?
- b) Because God is the ruler and creator of all things and beings, he deserves our sincere worship, whereby we strip ourselves of idols that we have elevated above Him. What idols do we still hold on to while hiding under-expressed/*superficial worship (singing, serving in church, giving, etc.)*?
- c) Since God is the giver of all good gifts, he deserves our thanksgiving. In what ways do you worship God's blessings rather than give thanks or be content in God when the blessing is absent?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) **Read Exodus 7-11.** Although the Israelites deserved punishment and wrath, Moses (although imperfect) mediated for the Israelites. Pst. Akin reminds us that we have a perfect mediator, Christ, the righteous. **Read Hebrews 13:10-12** and discuss the form of Christ's mediation for our sin against God.

**APPLICATION**

*"Would you want to go to heaven if God was not there" (Pst. Akin)?* As you think through that question, **read Hebrews 13:13-16**, and answer the following questions. **Mourn together about sins and seek repentance by looking up to Jesus.**

- What blessing from God do you cherish more than God?
- What idols are you holding to rather than being like Christ and sharing in His sacrificial suffering?
- What worldliness are you holding to rather than the hoping in your eternity with God?
- What selfishness, discontentment, and pride are you holding to rather than praising and acknowledging God for all you have or don't have?

**PRAYER**

- Praise God that you have been given all that you need, God Himself.
- Confess how you have sought God's gifts rather than God.
- Thank Jesus for taking the cost of your sin upon himself.
- Ask God to help you worship Him FROM grace.