

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) Pst. Mark mentioned that we tend to choose God's prosperity (both spiritual and physical) over God's presence. In what ways have you seen these attitudes cultivated in your life? What are its effects?

b) Moses desired the blessing of Israel even when God wanted to bless only Moses. Note some of the keywords that Moses used to demonstrate his selflessness in response to God: *"Your people," "us," "I and your people"* (Exo. 33:14-16). We tend to seek God's blessings for self-centered reasons rather than view others as fellow partakers of God's blessings. In what ways have you seen this self-centered attitude practiced?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) The glory of God is not an atmosphere or experience but a knowledge of his goodness and truth. In what ways do we desire this inaccurate experiential glory of God, instead of embracing the beauty of God's revealed goodness and truth? What are the effects of these distorted desires?

b) Pst. Mark mentioned that the beauty and glory of God are in his justice and mercy (**Read Exodus 34:6-7**). Sometimes, humans want a God of justice without mercy/grace and vice versa. Why do we tend to compartmentalize God in order to view him for his mercy without justice or vice-versa?

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

a) **Read John 1:1-14**. Christ is the glory and the revelation of the Father, who was full of grace and truth. How has Christ demonstrated and fulfilled the mercy and justice of the Father through his life, death, and resurrection?

APPLICATION

"...Moses quickly bowed his head towards the earth and worshiped" (Exo 34:8). We who continually behold the glory of Christ, with unveiled faces, ought to have an exceeding worship than Moses. Therefore:

- Is your worship out of rest in what Christ has done or based on what God can do for you or what you can do for God (good or bad)?
- Is your worship based on how God has revealed himself (Grace and mercy) or your personal perception of God?
- Does your worship have an end in eternally knowing Christ and being in his presence, or ends when your desires are met or unmet?
- Are you continually worshipping in truth with other believers or "by" yourself?

PRAYER

- Praise God for who He is, as revealed in Christ. (Read out loud Exodus 34:6-7).
- Confess how you served or worshipped God in your power rather than resting in Christ.
- Thank Jesus for how he has credited you with his righteousness while you were weak in sin.
- Ask God to strip you of anything or being (good or bad) you desire more than knowing Him.