

Ascending The Mountain

Session 1: Introduction

Intro Questions:

- If you could describe God in 5 words, how would you describe Him?
- How do you think God would describe Himself to you in 5 words? Would it differ from your description of God? If so, why?

In this series, we are going to take a journey to see how God chooses to reveal Himself to His people, and more than that, we are going to walk through practical tools to experience God for who He says He is!

Scripture:

Background context: God made a promise with a man named Abraham, that God would bless all nations through Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, but the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. After 400 years of slavery, a man named Moses met with God, and he said "show me your glory." God then used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Here, as we are about to read, God invites the Israelites to know Him greater.

Read Exodus 19:3-6

- What is God promising to Israel?
- Upon what condition does God's promise rest?
- What does it mean that Israel will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation?

Priests were the only ones who were allowed to enter into God's presence, and God is inviting an entire nation to be people who have direct contact with God!

Read Exodus 19:7-25

- What are the Israelites being invited into?

Read Exodus 20:18-21

- How did the Israelites respond to God's invitation?

ALL of Israel was invited to ascend the mountain and to be a kingdom of priests. ALL were invited to step into the cloud, but only Moses understood God's character enough to step into the glory of God.

Reflection:

- Where have you not seen God clearly, and what has kept you from seeing Him clearly?
- How do you think your perception of others has affected your perception of God?
- Take a moment to write a prayer, asking God to reveal Himself to you. Consider the question “Where have I not seen God clearly?” and “How would I like God to reveal Himself to me?”

“God can be mysterious and vague and elusive and hard to catch at times. At the top of Mount Sinai was a cloud, not an engineering schematic. And everybody was invited up the mountain, but only Moses had the courage to step into the cloud. So I say we start with Moses' prayer: Show me your glory. Even if all we see is a glimpse and all we hear is an echo, it's more than worth the trek. But before we start the journey, ask yourself, Do I have the courage to step into the cloud? It's one thing to read a book about God; it's another thing to scale a mountain in the middle of the desert and plunge headfirst into the darkness. To abandon yourself to a life of dangerous, risky, I-won't-stop-for-anything pursuit of God” (John Mark Comer).