

AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 6.12.22

These **discussions** and recommended **spiritual practices** are designed to help **AMPLIFY** the impact of our Sunday morning teaching from God’s Word. Choose the ones that fit best in your context.

Sunday Discussion

This is designed to be an extension of our Sunday worship service. Take a few minutes to have this conversation with those who watched the worship service with you. If you watched alone, give another friend who watched alone a call and have the conversation over the phone.

Share something that was said or sung in the worship service that resonated with you. Take a moment to pray with and for the person with whom you just shared.

Daily Discussion

These are intended for conversation around the dinner table, in the car, or before bed at night (designed for ages 7 and up). Start each conversation by reading the passage listed.

Monday: Read Exodus 24:12-16. What do you think went on with Moses and Joshua as they waiting on the mountain for six days covered by a cloud before the Lord spoke to them on the seventh day?

Tuesday: Read Exodus 24:17-18. What do you think went on with Moses and God as Moses “stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights?”

Wednesday: Read Exodus 33:18-23. From these verses, what questions are raised about God or what conclusions do you draw?

Thursday: Read Isaiah 55:8-9. How have you experienced the truth of these this passage? How is this comforting? How is this unsettling?

Friday: Read John 1:18. While we cannot know or understand everything about God, we can know and understand much about Him through the person of Jesus? What are some clear things that we learn about God through the earthly life of Jesus?

Weekly Discussion

Spiritual friends are those who intentionally move into one another’s life to spur one another on in spiritual growth for the Glory of God.

1. How has God encouraged, challenged or corrected you recently?
2. What’s a way that you believe God has used you recently or wants to use you this week?

What follows are some spiritual practices that we believe could feed your soul and advance His Kingdom this week.

An Inward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Daily spiritual discipline – Spend some time this week considering the thoughts and passages below.

Passages to ponder

Exodus 24:12-18; Exodus 33:18-23; Exodus 34:5-7; Psalm 83:1; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-34; John 1:18; Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thoughts to ponder

A W Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* on the attributes of God, in a chapter titled “God Incomprehensible”

Left to ourselves we tend immediately to reduce God to manageable terms. We want to get him where we can use him, or at least know where he is when we need him. We want a God we can in some measure control. We need the feeling of security that comes from knowing what God is like. (16)

God is personal and knowable, and He has given us His word in order that we might know Him better. But there is much about our infinite and transcendent God that is, and will always be, mysterious and inscrutable. – David Henderson

A spiritual classic called *The Cloud of Unknowing* by an unknown author writing in about 1350 in England:

Lift up your heart to God. Focus on him alone. Want him, not anything he’s made, not anything he’s done. Think on nothing but him.

The first time you practice contemplation you’ll only experience a darkness, like a cloud of unknowing. You must know that this darkness and this cloud will always be between you and your God, whatever you do. They will always keep you from seeing him clearly by the light of your intellect and will block you from feeling him fully in the sweetness of love in your emotions.

So be sure you make yourself at home in the darkness. Stay there as long as you can, crying out to him over and over again, because you love him. It’s the closest you can get to God here on earth, by waiting in the darkness and in this cloud.

(Cloud of Unknowing, Chapter 3, 11-12)

God will always act in keeping with his own goodness, but he will not always act in keeping with our expectations – David Henderson

An Outward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Seek to love those God places in your path. Be intentional to share Jesus's love through word or deed with them.

With the love of Jesus in view, reach out to a neighbor or co-worker or someone in need.

Get involved with one of the Shalom of the City outreach initiatives:

<https://www.covenantepc.org/ministries/shalom-for-the-city/>

Get on our weekly prayer email (go to the "watch live" page and sign up for the prayer list) and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.