

SERMON STUDY NOTES

27 Sept – 'In the Tent with God'
Speaker: Mike Bloore

1. Read Exodus 33:7-11 out loud together. What first jumps out for you when you hear this passage?
2. Intimacy can be defined as "close familiarity or friendship" – and from the beginning of Israel's story it has been God's desire (Exodus 19:4). What things tend to get in the way of us experiencing intimacy with God?
3. It says in this passage "*The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.*" The phrase 'face to face' is a reference to the intimacy Moses had with the Lord... a close relationship in which the Lord made Himself (his character) known to Moses and vice versa. Is this your experience with God at present? What things might need to change in your life so that you experience more intimacy with the Lord?
4. Like Moses, God is calling His people to intercession at this time, to pray on behalf of others (particularly those who don't yet know Him) from a posture of humility (Exodus 33:6). Who might God be calling you to pray on behalf of in this season? Discuss.
5. The 'tent of meeting' was outside the camp "some distance away" (v7) – that is, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Among other things, this highlights the need for us to take times to retreat and be alone with God, in silence and solitude. Have you taken the time to retreat and be alone with God in your life before? What came from this time of retreat? Discuss.
6. Jesus was regularly taking opportunities to retreat into "solitary/lonely places" (*eramos* in Greek) to be alone with His Father and pray. What needs to shift in your life so you are able to imitate this pattern in Jesus life?

7. Read Exodus 33:11 – “Joshua... would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting”. Ultimately God invites us, like Joshua, to remain in His presence throughout the day (John 15:5, John 1:32). We are now the ‘tent of meeting’ for His Spirit, both individually and corporately, and He desires that we live life in Christ, by the Spirit, at all times. What are some things we can do to remain aware of, and live life by, the Spirit’s presence/power throughout the day? (i.e. pray without ceasing, meditate on scripture day and night, give thanks in all circumstances, set minds on things above etc.)