



Kyle recapped Exodus 31:

This passage recounts God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, promising to be their God, make them His people, and give them a land. However, by the time of Exodus, the Israelites are enslaved in Egypt, enduring harsh oppression for 400 years. Their cries for deliverance reach God, who calls Moses, despite his hesitations, to lead them out of bondage. Through miraculous signs, plagues, and divine guidance, God delivers them, leading them with a cloud by day and fire by night, and parting the Red Sea to secure their escape.

Once freed, God provides for them in the wilderness, giving manna daily to teach dependence on His provision. At Mount Sinai, He reveals His presence and gives Moses the law, including the Ten Commandments, emphasizing His lordship and the command to worship no other gods.

Exodus 32:

Meanwhile, the Israelites, impatient during Moses' extended absence on the mountain, create a golden calf from their blessings (Egyptian gold) and turn to idolatry. This betrayal contrasts with Moses' communion with God at the mountaintop. God's anger burns against the people's rebellion, showcasing their failure to trust in His presence and provision, despite His faithfulness.

Starter

- How does the book of Exodus illustrate God unveiling His presence to His people?
- What does the golden calf incident teach about human impatience with God's timing?

- What does the story of the Israelites in the wilderness teach about dependence on God?

Digging Deeper

Kyle talked about the beginning of Exodus, and how God relates to the people of Israel. “God says, my sons and daughters, my children, my firstborn.” But now God looks at Moses and says, 7 “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become Corrupt. 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ 9 “I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

- What does it mean to substitute God's presence with lesser gods?
- What are the consequences of this?
- How does Moses intercede for the Israelites after their idolatry with the golden calf?

Kyle emphasized our greatest desire should be having the presence of God in our lives. He indicated that this is God’s greatest desire as well. “God didn't need to create us, but he did. He created us for his relational presence and to be with us, but what this story communicates and what I can't have us miss is that the presence of God will not be substituted for lesser gods. He will not share the place of authority in our lives with something else.”

- Would you ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you're settling for a substitute instead of his presence?
- What does it mean to be people of God's presence?
- What is the importance of God’s presence for the future of our church?
- What internal work needs to be done for hosting God's presence in our lives?

Kyle encouraged us, because of the way this story ends. “Because you know what God does in response to the sin of his people. He chooses to pursue us anyway.”

Exodus 33

The Lord said to Moses, “Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ 2 I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people, and I might destroy you on the way.”

- What are the three promises God made to Abraham in the book of Genesis?

- How would you describe the tension between God's mercy and holiness?
- Why is God's presence both exciting and frightening?

Exodus 33:4

When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn, and no one put on any ornaments.

Exodus 33:12-14

12 Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' 13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

14 The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

- How does the Bible emphasize God's relational presence from Genesis to Revelation?
- Why is repentance emphasized as crucial for restoring a relationship with God?
- What role does Jesus play in making God's presence accessible to believers?
- What practical steps can we take to fully surrender to God's presence?