**Small Group notes – 3 Jan 2021**

**Welcome –** Share together some of the most challenging tasks or things you have ever been asked to do.

**Word –** Moses & the People of God – Exodus 33 – ‘Show me thy glory’.

Moses was tasked with the Job of leading God’s people out of slavery into the Promised Land. It was a challenging task, leading a rebellious, self-centred and stiff-necked people (God’s words for his people!) It is a task that drives Moses to his knees in prayer.

Moses had just received the Ten Commandments (the ten words). He was away for 40 days and 40 nights while he received the Law. While he was away the people made a golden calf and began to worship it as God. When Moses came down the mountain he saw what the people were doing and threw the stone tablets containing the law and broke them.

The Lord is angry and as a consequence of their behaviour and tells Moses and the people to leave and go into the Promised land but he himself will not go with them. The people are distressed and respond by mourning and Moses goes out to the Tent of Meeting to pray and intercede on behalf of the people.

This is an amazing moment as an exchange takes place between God and Moses. Between Almighty God and a mere man. There is an interesting pattern that develops in this prayer passage. Moses speaks to God and pauses, then God replies to Moses. Again Moses speaks and God responds. The pattern of this dialogue is repeated throughout the prayer. It clearly reminds us that prayer is not a one sided conversation. Prayer involves both speaking and listening.

* **First request by Moses – The assistance he requested v12-13**Moses knows he couldn’t do this task without Gods help so he prays. Moses says I want to know you in a deeper way. I want to understand your ways and walk in them.
* **God’s first response – The Presence he promised v14**This is an encouraging change of heart from God towards Moses. But Moses wants more.
* **Second request by Moses – The assurance he required v15-16**Moses knows that the one thing that makes him and the Hebrews set apart from all the other nations is God’s presence. If God withdraws his presence they are just the same as all the other nations surrounding them. Moses doesn’t want to go anywhere that God’s not going?
* **God’s second response – The requested granted v17**We have seen that Moses wants to know God and for God to live amongst them. God grants him his requests, but Moses is not finished with his requests.
* **Moses third request – The evidence he wanted v18**At this point most of us would be satisfied. God’s friendship and God’s presence would be more than enough.
* **God’s third response – Patience exhibited**God is patient with Moses. He even grants him his request as best for Moses as he would not be able to experience the full presence of God and live. This encounter with God produced within Moses a profound outward change. Others saw this as his face radiated with the Glory of God, which was witnessed by all.

We see in this prayer exchange that Moses wants to know God’s…

His ways

His person

His presence

His glory.

**It seems to me that Moses, in seeking God in this way is praying for revival.**

**Questions**

* Why did God say that his presence would not go with them into the Promised Land? V1-3
* How did the people respond to this news? V4
* Why was God still willing to give them the Promised Land even after they have sinned?
* What did Moses do? v7
* Why was the Tent outside the camp? V7
* How does God speak to us today?
* What do we learn about prayer from this exchange between God and Moses? V12-23
* What distinguished the Israelites from all the other people on earth?
* What distinguishes us? What sets us apart as God’s people?
* Moses asks to see God’s glory. What does God’s glory look like?
* Moses face radiated with the glory of God. In what ways to we radiate?
* Moses makes requests to know God’s ways, his person, his presence, his glory.
Will you make this your daily prayer request for 2021?

**New Year Prayer 2021- online**

Sunday 3 Jan – 8pm-9pm

Monday 4 Jan – 1pm-2pm

Wednesday 6 Jan – 7.30am-8.30am

Friday 8 Jan – 1pm-2pm

**Members Meeting online – Wednesday 13 January at 8pm**