

Life Group Homework

For the week of September 17, 2017

MY STORY

Each week this section titled *My Story* will look back to last week's study and ask questions about what our takeaways were and how we are applying what we are learning. Since this is week one, we will only have one question.

- 1) What are you hoping to see God do in your life through this study?

QUICK REVIEW

This section is a review of Sunday's message.

- 2) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

This week Pastor Craig brought us back to the scene with the Israelites and God at Mount Sinai where they experienced the "Awe of God."

Exodus 19:16-20 (NLT)

¹⁶On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled. ¹⁷Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. ¹⁹As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. ²⁰The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So, Moses climbed the mountain.

- 3) Imagine for a moment you are an Israelite at the bottom of the mountain. What would this experience at the bottom of the mountain have been like? Keep in mind the Israelites had just been miraculously freed from slavery in Egypt through the plagues and the Red Sea crossing. They had experienced the power of God.
- 4) Why is it important to experience the "awe of God?" Keep in mind that the power of God and the awe of God are two different things.

Exodus 33:18-23 (NIV)

¹⁸Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²²When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

- 5) Was Moses afraid of God? What did he do with that fear?
- 6) What was God's response to Moses' request to see His glory?
- 7) How does God's response impact the awe we have of Him?

TAKING IT HOME

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and they were camped at the base of Mount Sinai for a little over a year. They were supposed to experience the "awe of God" and let it transform them into the people of God and a royal priesthood. Unfortunately, they were stuck in a slave mentality.

- 8) What does it mean to be a slave of something?
Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines slavery as: *submission to a dominating influence.*
- 9) What dominating influences control people today?
- 10) How should the "awe of God" impact slavery?
- 11) Are there things in your life that you are a slave to? If so, are you willing to share them with the group?

Pastor Craig's theme verse for this series comes from Moses and his word to the Israelites before they crossed into the Promised Land. He was taking a look at the end of the story to give them perspective they were supposed to obtain at the base of the mountain. The commands Moses gave them were in the context of the awe and regular presence of God they experienced in the desert.

Deuteronomy 30:11 (NLT)

¹¹"This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach.

- 12) Do you find encouragement in these words of Moses?
- 13) Is there something you think is too difficult for God to set you free from? If so, how can this lesson today change that perspective?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Exodus 33 in different versions and meditate on the following questions.

- 14) What does God's glory have to do with me?
- 15) Where do I see God's goodness in my life?
- 16) In what areas am I a slave in my mind and heart? Do I have fears that are controlling me?



WEEK ONE | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

Text: Exodus 19 & 20

Theme: My identity matters.

Moses led the people to the AWE of God.

Their IDENTITIES are firmly rooted in what God has already done.

Hundreds of years earlier...

Abraham - Friend of God.

Isaac - Promise Confirmed...God of the miraculous.

Jacob - A deceiver receives mercy.

IDENTITY is where God starts.

God literally carved out time and space for them to wrestle with their new life at His side.

- New name
- New timeline
- New story
- New culture shaped by new values to live into

Embracing the AWE of God.

Colossians 1:13-14 - We are brought to the FREEDOM of the mountain of God from our slavery.

Colossians 1:15-24 - We are led to the AWE of God. It's here in this place and presence that we learn. WHO HE is and WHO I am now.

The AWE of God teaches me:

Who He is.

- He invited me to be HERE.
- My Focus is on Him. Can't take my eyes off of Him.
- I'm in no hurry to leave. This is what time is for.
- His WORDS are true.

Who I am.

- I am a FREE man/woman walking with God.
- His presence is my privilege.
- I am GRATEFUL to be HERE.
- I'm no longer in EGYPT (my past slavery), I'm His.
- He LOVES me. I'm confident of that.
- I am SURRENDERING to the awe of God.

Begin with the end in mind.

"not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach." Deut 30:11