

# When God shows up

Insights on Exodus 19:1-25

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, March 19th, 2017

## God showing up includes...

1. **God as the** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exodus 19:3-4, 20:2, 1 John 4:19)
2. **An invitation** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exodus 19:5, Matthew 11:28-30, John 17:3)
3. **Defining the boundaries** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exodus 19:5-6, John 15:1-11, 1 John 1:5-10)
4. **A new** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Exodus 19:6, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

## How do we approach this God?

- **With a healthy...**  
(Exodus 19:16-19, Proverbs 9:10)
- **We approach...**  
(Exodus 19:10-15, 1 Samuel 12:24, James 2:19)
- **We approach...**  
(John 14:6, Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:13)

## This weeks discussion guide:

### Welcome to “Week 10” of our Small Group Session!

Our small groups are where folks move from ‘believers’ to ‘belongers.’ May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, and study God’s Word together. This quarter our groups will meet for 13 weeks wrapping up the week of April 9th (the week before our Easter Celebration).

### Getting Started:

1. Exodus 19 shows the holiness of God as he descends upon Mt. Sinai with lightning, thunder, earthquakes, and fire. Our culture loves to focus on the love of God at times to the neglect of his holiness. When was the last time you saw God revealed in your life as holy? How does his holiness impact the way you live, pray, and speak?
2. This past weekend we talked about having a healthy fear of God. We see Moses telling the people not to be “afraid” of God in Exodus 20:20, but yet there needs to be a reverence when we approach God. Who is someone in your life that you have had a healthy fear/respect for? How did that fear/respect impact your relationship with them?
3. God knows that any good relationship has boundaries. He establishes those boundaries with Israel. What are some good boundaries in any healthy relationship? Why are those sometimes hard to implement?

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### **Digging Deeper:**

1. During the sermon this past weekend we read Exodus 20:20 where Moses told the Israelites that "the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Regrettably, we still see people in the Bible who didn't fear the Lord and it cost them dearly. How does God use the married couple's lack of fear in Acts 5:1-11 to teach the other people in the church an important lesson?

How could the people's response to this event help them relate to God in a healthy way?

Can you think of any examples in your own life of how your fear of God has helped you?

Do you have any thoughts on how a person could determine if they have an appropriate fear of God?

2. It can be a challenge to understand and balance a healthy, appropriate fear of God with the confidence that he loves and accepts us. Looking at how another person handles this can be helpful. As you read David's prayer in Psalm 86, look for ways he describes God and what he requests of God.

How might David's perspective and response to God in this Psalm help you balance a healthy fear of God and the confidence to come before him?

3. This past weekend we talked about the new purpose and identity God had given the Israelites. As followers of Christ

and citizens of God's kingdom, we also have been given a new identity. What do you learn about that new identity from the following passages?

- Galatians 2:20

- Ephesians 2:19-20

- 1 John 3:1-3

Can you think of any ways remembering our new identity could impact how we act towards others and God?

How has your understanding of your identity in Christ changed as you've grown in your faith?

4. We see in Exodus 19:16-21 that God reveals his holiness as he descends on the mountain in fire and earthquakes. This causes the people of God to tremble with fear. God did this on purpose to warn the people. To have a healthy fear and respect of who he is and his holiness. Where are other areas in the Scriptures where God has given "warnings"? What happens when we see people ignore those warnings? What are some warnings that God has given us today?

### **Wrapping Up:**

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group