**Tent of Meeting**

**Exodus 33**

**Ideas for Tent of Meeting: Mission Adventures 2011**

* **Time in the schedule Monday evening session to present it to the students in a way that will inspire them.**
* **Some sort of sign up schedule as not to conflict with session times.**
* **one at a time can go in.**
* **One hour blocks on the hour.**
* **Shoe rack outside the tent. Instructions to take of shoes before entering.**
* **Whiteboard name sign-in / sign-out so we know who is in there without interrupting.**
* **Perhaps an instruction card outside the tent that direct people how to use their time before they enter.**
* **Decor:**
	+ **Candles / lantern / incense**
	+ **Ipod playlist with worship that invites the Lords presence- 4-5 hour loop on shuffle.**
	+ **Plastic, then carpet on floor.**
	+ **Perhaps prayer stations or engaging prayer activities.**
	+ **Banners (see contact from clf)**
	+ **Stations that encourage different postures: Sit, knell, stand, lay.**
	+ **Clock on wall?**

**A study on the tent of meeting:**

Exodus 33:7 Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it **outside** the camp some distance away,

* Find a quite place to meet with God. It should be outside the “camp” the center of business. We need to make it a priority. It’s a time where we are unavailable to anyone but God! Cell phone off.

 calling it the “tent of **meeting**.”

* The purpose of this time is to meet with God! We are not looking for personal merit because we read the Bible or prayed. We know that we need to be connected with the life source to have life.

**Anyone** *inquiring of the LORD* would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.

* It’s important to note that this “tent of meeting” is available to anyone. It’s not just Moses or the pastor who can go and meet with God but anyone who will make the time and effort. God is inviting us to come to him.
* *inquiring of the LORD-* David was said to be “a man after God’s own heart”. It’s interesting that this phrase “inquired of the Lord” refers to David far more than anyone else in the Bible. Inquiring of the Lord cultivates an attitude and relationship of dependency upon the Lord.

8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, **watching** Moses until he entered the tent.

* Leaders- people take note of your intimacy with God. When we spend time with Jesus, it shows!
* Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men **had been with Jesus**.

9 As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would *come down* and stay at the entrance, while the LORD **spoke** with Moses.

* When we enter our “tent of meeting” we should have a deep desire to be with God. To have faith that his presence is indeed with us.
* We must also take the posture of listener. Sometimes we spend all our time with God talking and wonder why he never speaks to us. The God who is the same “yesterday, today and forever” is the God who longs to communicate to His Children!

10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent.

* We have the priviledge and responsibility to inspire others to worship. Do people see something in us that makes them long to have a more personal relationship with God themselves?

11 The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his **friend**.

* There is a level of intimacy that only those with a passion to know God will ever experience. Is it even possible to see God face to face? Perhaps a theopany.
* [**THEOPHANY** A visible appearance of God, generally in human form. Before man sinned, he walked and talked with God; but after sin entered, Adam and his wife hid when they heard the voice of the Lord God (Gen 3:8). God spoke to Cain (ch. 4), Enoch and Noah “walked with God” (5:24; 6:9), and God gave Noah detailed instructions concerning the ark and the Flood. One of the loveliest and most instructive of the theophanies is found in Genesis 18. From Abraham’s time on, theophanies generally occurred when the recipients were asleep, as in Jacob’s vision at Bethel (28:10-17), but God addressed Moses “face to face” (Exod 33:11). There is good reason to think that theophanies before the incarnation of Christ were visible manifestations of the preincarnate Son of God. Theophanies ceased with the incarnation of our Lord.]
* Moses, Abraham, Job, John were all refered to as “friends of God”. How about you and I? Is it my prayer to say, “God, I want to be your friend”? “Whatever is required of me, I’m willing to walk in as long as I can be one of the followers that you can count on.”
* The more we come to know God, the more we realize how much of him we have never experienced. It leaves us longing for more. The rest of this chapter is about Moses longing to know the Glory of God.

Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun **did not leave the tent.**

* We see the mark that his mentor left on Joshua- a passonate hunger for God. “If this is where God is, I don’t want to be anywhere else.”
* Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. 3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. 4 **One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.** 5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. 6 Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD. 7 Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me. 8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek. 9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior. 10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me. 11 Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. 12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence. 13 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.