



Meeting with God 1 ENCOUNTER



VISION ARTICULATES OUR DREAM.

→ *What can you see? What does church look like in your wildest dreams?*

MISSION IS WHAT GOD'S CALLED US TO DO.

* Meet = ENCOUNTER ... DEEPER IN EXPERIENCE

* Walk = JOURNEY ... STRONGER IN RELATIONSHIP

* Serve = FRUITFULNESS ... WIDER IN INFLUENCE

→ *What does meeting with God mean to you? What about walking with God? And serving? How are these three components vital in making disciples?*

A. WHAT does 'meeting with God' mean?

THE EXPECTATION → Matthew 18:18-20

→ *What does God promise us in Matthew 18:18-20?*

* MANIFEST presence versus OMNIPRESENCE or INDWELLING presence.

* Bottomline: God's DESIRE is to MEET WITH His people (James 4:8, Psalm 145:18, Isaiah 55:6, Psalm 7:7, 16:11, 140:13)

→ *Look up these verses and report back what they tell us about meeting in God's presence.*

THE PRECEDENT = Tabernacle worship, the Psalmists, Temple Dedication, Jesus, others (Psalm 42:1-2, 27:4, 2 Chronicles 7:1-3, Mark 1:35)

THE CALL: Hebrews 10:19-25, 4:16

→ *When was the strongest experience of the presence of God you've ever had? What was it like? What do you think it would be like of the glory of God fell?*

→ *What is the difference between platitudes and good intentions versus the real deal?*

B. WHY is it so significant?

There is TREASURE in His Presence

* God's presence is the place of ¹Realignment, ²Repentance, ³Refining, ⁴Restoration, ⁵Refilling, ⁶Refreshing, ⁷Recommissioning, ⁸Rest, ⁹Revelation

→ *Which of those do you need most of all? Do you ever receive those in His presence? Perhaps you could recount one such time? What would the church look like if those treasures were all available to us all when we gathered?*

* When we come together, God is GLORIFIED / God SPEAKS / The POWER of God is AVAILABLE / We MINISTER to ONE ANOTHER

→ *How is God glorified and why is that important?*

→ *How does God speak? Through whom? What does He say?*

→ *When the power of God is available, what should we expect to see?*

→ *How do we minister to each other? What kind of ministry?*

→ *When you come to church do you expect to see each of those facets?*

C. HOW are we going to facilitate it?

a) PRAISE & THANKSGIVING (Psalm 22:3, Psalm 100:4)

b) WORSHIP

c) TIME & SPACE (Luke 11:9-13, Jeremiah 33:3)

d) The WORD (Mark 16:20)

e) RESPONSE → "Lord FILL me and let me OVERFLOW!"

→ *Why is praise and thanksgiving such an important starting point? Do you find it easy to enter into praise on a Sunday morning?*

→ *How does worship prepare your heart / till the ground / soften your will?*

→ *Do we give the Lord time and space in our gatherings? What do you do when it goes quiet? Are you good at spontaneous expressions of worship? How might you further cultivate that?*

→ *Why is the Word of God so powerful? What gives it its impact? What does the Word of God do when it is preached strongly?*

→ *How responsive are you? How responsive are we as a church? Why is it so important to respond?*

→ *"Because you're 'tuned in,' you're in a position to be a vessel, conduit, spokesperson." Discuss!*

→ *How do those 5 things relate to our Connect Group?*

→ *"Lord, fill me and let me overflow!" How does He fill us and what happens when we overflow? Do we?*