

## Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.

## Learning

### Knowing God

#### Key Doctrines

- *Sin* – A condition marked by prideful autonomy. A condition marked by fear of God and love of darkness.
- *Grace* – God giving himself in love.

#### Key Observations

- *Read: Genesis 3:8-10*
  - How has sin impacted the way in which Adam and Eve respond to the presence of God? What do they do when God comes into the garden?  
*Adam and Eve's response to God's presence is fear. The God they were created to live in loving relationship with has become someone they fear, because of their sin. As a result, they hide and cover from God when he enters the garden.*
- What is God's first question to Adam and Eve? What does this say about God's initial response to sin? *God's question is: "Where are you?" This question is a move toward relationship. God does not destroy them, but rather moves toward them in grace inviting them to come out of hiding and talk with him. This question demonstrates God's*

*commitment to reconcile what has gone wrong.*

#### ➤ *Read: Exodus 34:29-34*

- Take a moment and look at Exodus 34:1-33. Where has Moses been and what has he been doing up to this point in the passage?

*God has made a covenant with the people of Israel and graciously given them commandments which were to serve as a means of abiding in right relationship with him. The people of Israel committed idolatry, and yet here in Exodus 34 we see God's continued commitment to this covenant. He is renewing the covenant with them once again. This renewed covenant is communicated to Moses. Here Moses is on Mt. Sinai receiving this renewed covenant in the presence of the Lord.*

- How is Moses' physical appearance affected by being the presence of God? How do the people of Israel respond to this change in his appearance and what does it say about their response to God's presence?

*Being in the presence of God has impacted Moses' physical appearance. We hear that his face was shining. The response of the people of Israel is much like Adam and Eve in the garden. They fear this sign of God's presence and glory and want to cover it up.*

#### ➤ *Read: John 3:19-21*

- Briefly go back and read John 1:9-13. Who is this light that has come into the world?  
*Jesus is the light of the world.*

- What does this passage tell us about God's response to sin? What does this passage teach us about the nature of grace?

*Remarkably, God pursues us in Christ right in the midst of our sin. The good news of the gospel is God gives himself to us in love in full view of our sin. The light of God's grace moves toward us to heal us and to restore us to right relationship with him.*

## **Listening**

*Responding to God*

- In light of hearing this week's sermon, our study together, and listening to God's Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

## **Loving**

*Obeying God*

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for \_\_\_\_\_ about:

## **Checking Out**

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?
- Close in Prayer and Read 1 John 4:9.