



February 16, 2025

Kevin Sneed

Exodus 33:12-23

Key Takeaways:

- The dark night of the soul (the removal of God's felt presence) is inevitable.
- The dark night of the soul has formative power. God is at work and will do what is best for us, even if it doesn't feel right - and brings about a deeper richness, intimacy, and love we desire. It is not a shame-filled testing, but rather a gracious revealing/refining.
- In the dark night of the soul we may likely experience pain/tumult or a dullness - God wants us to connect with Him in the midst of it.
- Commitment sustains our relationship with God, not our emotions or feelings.
- God sustains us with just what we need - He takes us through the desert stream by stream.
- In the midst of the dark night of the soul we are invited to:
 - a. Seek God's presence.
 - b. Stay in our commitment.
 - c. Rest in his presence.

Prompts for Discussion:

1. Revisit the passage together as a group (**Exodus 33:12-23**). What stands out to you from the dialogue between the Lord and Moses? What does this passage reveal about God's character and heart toward his people?
2. Has there been a time where you've experienced the "dark night of the soul? — when it seemed like God's felt presence was not with you? What was that like for you, and how did you respond? What might the Lord have revealed to you in this time?
3. Kevin talked about the importance of staying in our commitment — letting commitment sustain us, not our feelings. What might "showing up" look like for you in your relationship with God, and in community with other believers? What would it look like for you to practically lean on your community when you are struggling?

4. Many times we may try to avoid pain or suffering, or strive to push through it on our own. What might it look like to lean in and build connection with God in the midst of it? What would it look like for you to rest in Him and in the little tastes of God's goodness He provides (i.e. scripture, encouraging or timely words from a friend, a beautiful sunset, etc.) instead of seeking out mountain-top experiences?
5. Kevin reminded us of the way that God sustains us with just what we need in the moment. God takes us through the desert stream by stream. We remain faithful to the One who is faithful by taking one step at a time, trusting that He is faithful to get us to the next stream. How have you experienced God leading you through the desert from stream to stream? How did He reveal His goodness and provision to you?
6. Kevin reminded us that God's deepest work is often the slowest. Revisit **Romans 8:18-21**, **Romans 8:28**, and **1 Corinthians 13:9-12**. How do these verses encourage you, and how might they bring hope and new perspective to situations or struggles you may be tempted to believe cannot be redeemed or reconciled by God?
7. Where else have you seen the dark night of the soul in scripture? Are there particular people that come to mind? (Hint: consider Peter, Paul, Job) What do their stories/experiences reveal about the presence of God, and about genuine faith?

Take Home Challenge

Spend 5-10 minutes in the quiet with the Lord each day, practicing simply resting in Him and tasting of His goodness in small ways. Refer back to the silence and solitude [habit card](#) for some tips on how to spend this time in silence with Him.

As you do, consider the three invitations Kevin gave us in his sermon – to seek God's presence, to stay in your commitment, and to rest in His presence. Ask the Lord which one of these invitations may specifically be for you this week.