



“THE WAY OF PRESENCE”

SPEAKER: BO STERN BRADY

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Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

EXODUS 3:1 — 4:14

God arrested Moses' attention with a bush that burned and was not consumed, a shiny object if you will. However, he commanded Moses to come only so close and no closer, remove his sandals because he now stood on holy ground. God was calling him to something and imparting the means to accomplish that calling in this holy space, and Moses was to respect the moment. As Pastor Bo teaches, we should follow suit when God invites us into his Presence to make us more like Jesus.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What was the weirdest place you were ever in?
2. What was the most interesting space you were ever in?
3. Have you ever been in the presence of someone that was both simultaneously attractive and unsettling? What was that like?
4. What's one simple thing about the message that stood out to you — made you laugh, pause, or think for a minute?
5. How did you put a past week's teaching into practice since our group last met?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What is Moses doing when he notices the burning bush?
2. What is the first command that the Angel of the Lord gives Moses?
3. What does God reveal to Moses, and how does Moses respond?
4. How does God identify himself, and why might that be important?
5. What assurances does God give Moses, and how does Moses respond? What strikes you as odd or important about the exchanges?
6. How did God resource Moses and demonstrate his power?
7. What finally seemed to test God's patience?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What kinds of spaces and moments are considered “holy” in our culture? Think about places or ideas that one cannot violate. Why are they so “holy?”
2. What moments in the history of our culture feel “holy?” The signing of the Declaration of Independence? The march across the bridge in Selma? The 1920's Veterans' tent city known as Hooverville? The return of fallen soldiers at Dover Air Force base?

Maybe these aren't good examples for you. If not, why or why not? Might you offer better examples and explain why?

3. What's a "holy moment" of presence that you'd like to see in our culture now and why?
4. Where do you think people who don't follow Jesus find moments of "presence," if they do at all?
5. Do you think it's possible for people to experience a holy moment of presence without explicitly knowing God? For example, might God, in his grace, offer a moment of his presence to someone who did not have faith in him, and why or why not?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How might you have reacted if you were in Moses sandals?
2. What of God's presence do you long for and why?
3. Pastor Bo talked about the relentless pace of modern life as a competing presence keeping us from noticing God's invitation to enter holy moments of *his* presence. Does this resonate with you, and if so, how will you address the tension?
4. Maybe that's not you. Maybe your life unfolds at a measured pace. If so, what else keeps you from entering holy moments of God's presence, and what are you prepared to do about that?
5. Pastor Bo talked about vision, wrestling, and resourcing. Where do you need those things in your life right now?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Slow down this week and ask God to show you a "burning bush" moment where you might meet with him on holy ground. Pray that pray to start your week and enter the next seven days with a sense of holy expectation. Make time to have time.
2. Use the simple construct of vision, wrestling, and resourcing to seek God for something that is close to your heart. However, do not seek the *thing* that you desire. You might be seeking his presence so you can know what to do about a job, or over the question of marriage, or to find freedom from a persistent sin. The issue is less important than the process. Focus on seeking him. First, enter his presence knowing you're welcome (Hebrews 4:16). Next, ask for his vision for you. Ask specifically, what do you see for me, Lord? What do you want for me? Wrestle with his response if you need to. It's okay. Ultimately, the process is designed to help you yield to the Holy Spirit and align your desires with God's. That is a profound place of trust and freedom. There is no time limit on this process. It might happen in a legit holy moment. It might happen over the course of many such moments. Be patient and persistent (Luke 11).