

Small Group Study Questions

January 6, 2018

Encountering God
2 Corinthians 3:7-18
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This Sunday we begin a three part series entitled *Transformed (How God Changes Us)*. We will walk through who we are as a church and our passion about connecting people to Jesus for life change. This motivates us to pursue **ENCOUNTERS** with the Living God, **EQUIP** one another to love and serve, and to **ENGAGE** our world for Jesus.

Big Idea: *We encounter God by His Spirit when we behold His glory. When we behold His glory we become transformed from one degree to another and become bold for Him in our pursuit of Him and proclamation for Him.*

A. We must behold God's glory v.7-18

1. Why does Paul refer to the Law or Ten Commandments as "the ministry of death" in vs. 7? What purpose did the Law serve?
2. Read Exodus 34:29-30 and 33-35. What must it have been like to have witnessed the glory that shone from Moses' face after he had encountered God?
3. The description of veiled vs. unveiled face in 2 Corinthians 3:14-15 seems to express the difference between not experiencing God's glory vs. experiencing it in its fullness. Discuss the difference between the old covenant of the Law and the new covenant that God instituted through Christ?

B. Beholding leads to becoming v.18

4. Paul argues that however glorious its origins, the law didn't bring life to God's people as the ministry of the Spirit does. What does it mean to live by the Spirit?

5. The new covenant ministry is glorious because of the certain triumph of Christ and the transforming work of the Spirit, but it is not without its hardships. Look at Paul's life. Have you asked God to reveal to you His specific plan for your life?

6. What is God changing in you? If you were to graph your spiritual progress (the ever-increasing splendor mentioned in vs. 18) over time, what would it look like? To what do you attribute that?

C. Becoming bold for God v.12-13

7. What about our new life gives boldness? (see Colossians 1:11,13,17-18, 27).

8. A major result of the new covenant is freedom. (see Galatians 4:4-7). Give some examples of what it means to live in freedom according to the Spirit?