

God Seeker

LEADERS GUIDE

Dear Leader,

You have accepted the awesome privilege and responsibility of guiding others on their journey through Exodus 33. Never forget that your most important role will be to model the way of the God Seeker. If you are truly seeking Him with your whole heart not only will you find Him, but others will be encouraged to seek and find Him as they observe your life.

This Leader's Guide is a tool to help you in that process, but it is in no way a substitute for your own tent time. As you prepare your heart in His presence and listen for His voice, He will reveal to you personally and uniquely how to facilitate your group. Use this Leader's Guide, but rely on your Lord.

Suggested Weekly Practices:

1) Prayer:

- Begin and end with prayer. Be brief and to the point with your opening prayer. This will help turn hearts and minds to the study at hand. Model that prayer is simply conversing with the Father. Any child can do it. It does not require important, correct or well thought out words. When you pray humbly from your heart as the leader, others will follow your example.
- You may want to ask a volunteer to open in prayer. Unless you know the person very well, consider asking in advance of small group time so they won't be caught off guard.
- End your study time each week with an extended prayer focus (10- 15 minutes). This should include a variety of prayer exercises so that both seasoned and rookie pray-ers can join in. Start out with the basics and move to deeper prayer opportunities as the weeks of study progress.

Some Prayer Methods You May want to Use:

- ✓ Fill in the blank prayer: using a white board or piece of paper, write out a simple prayer leaving a blank for each person to personalize. For example: "Dear Lord, I pray that you will help me seek you this week with all my heart and keep me from _____ as I go to my tent of meeting. (distractions, discouragement, falling asleep!) Give each person the opportunity to pray this prayer aloud.

- ✓ Squeeze-a-hand-prayer: Join hands in a circle. Encourage each person to pray a sentence prayer aloud as you move around the circle from a starting point L to R. If someone is not ready to pray aloud, they can squeeze the hand of the person next to them and it will pass on to the next person. As the leader, you may want to start the prayer circle.
- ✓ Partners: break the group into partners and encourage them to pray aloud for one specific request that their partner shares with them.
- ✓ Small groups: Depending on the size of your study group, you can break them down into even smaller groups of three or four and have them spend time in prayer together.
- ✓ Worship and prayer: Plan ahead to play a particular worship song quietly in the background and invite silent prayer as it plays.
- ✓ Posture: Try varying your posture during prayer time – ask everyone to kneel by their chair.
- ✓ Scripture prayer: Choose one particular Scripture from the day's lesson (or have each person choose their own). Invite them to turn that verse into a prayer, inserting their name at key points. You may need to model how this is done. Pray these verses aloud together.
- ✓ Popcorn prayer: Invite participants to “pop in” and “pop out” of prayer by inviting them to pray short, sentence prayers aloud as often as they like during this time of group prayer.
- ✓ Praise prayers: Set aside one week just for praise. No requests. Don't ask God for anything, but encourage your group to praise Him aloud for anything that comes to mind from this study or beyond!
- ✓ God Can prayers: Provide a container (dressing up a large tin can works great), 3x5 cards and pens. Invite participants to jot down a silent prayer request that needs God's attention. Place them in the God Can. These are for no one's eyes but the Lord's. As the weeks pass, pray as a group and as individuals over these silent requests remembering that when nothing else can help, God Can! On the last week of study you may want to invite anyone having experienced an answer or some movement on their God Can request to share it with the group if they are willing.

2) Scripture Reading/ Memory

- Read God's Word out loud. Each week highlight at least a few verses from the week's study. As you run across them in your discussion time, ask a volunteer to read them aloud for the group's benefit.
- Remember, it's God's Word (not the author of this study, not yours and not your group members) that is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even

to the diving of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow and able to judge both the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). Keep the focus on God's Word!

- Consider allowing one or more participants who are willing to recite last week's memory verse to do so aloud. Or, you could read it out loud together as a group. You could also spend a couple of minutes practicing the suggested memory verse each week.

3) Discussion

- You will notice below that your first week of group time has been divided into suggested increments showing you how much time to spend on each question. This is based on an hour time allotment with 40 minutes of discussion and 10-15 minutes of prayer time. *This is only an example! Your group size and the time you have available will influence what you do and the way you do it. Plan ahead for good time management, but be led by the Spirit.*
- As well, the highlighted questions are merely suggestions. You may be led to emphasize different points according to the needs of your group.
- Along with the suggested questions for discussion, you will also want to call attention to some of the thoughts/quotes that stood out to you and to your group members from the study itself.

Chapter 1: God Seekers Accept the Invitation to Seek God

Key Theme: Almighty God is inviting you to seek Him with your whole heart. How will you respond?

Key Verse: Jeremiah 29:13 "If you seek Me, you will find Me, if you seek Me with all your heart."

Key Points to Cover:

Day 1- Seeker's Dilemma – I have to seek God if I want to find Him.

1. Read Jeremiah 29:13 out loud (1 min.)
2. Page 7, Last question, "Why do you think God wants you to seek Him . . ." (5 min.)

Day 2- Seeker's Surprise- God is eager for me to find Him.

1. Page 8, First question, "Look up Exodus 3:13-14 . . ." (*The name I AM teaches us that God is a present tense God. He is available today just as He was in Bible times.) (1 min.)

2. Page 8, Second question, "How does it make you feel to know that God longs to be found by you . . ." (3 min.)
3. Page 10, Second question, "Jeremiah 29:13 tells us . . ." (1 min.)
4. Page 11, Third question, "What is currently hindering you . . ." (5 min.)
5. Page 13, Combine First and Second questions: Read John 16:33; "How do you respond to the truth that seeking God will not protect your heart . . ." (5 min.)

Day 3- The Seeker's Part- I have to seek Him personally. No one can choose for me.

1. Page 16, Questions 1-4 (5 min.)

Day 4- The Seeker's Reality- Life is full of distractions that can hinder my God Seeking.

1. Page 18, Combine third and fourth questions, "What effect do your duties have . . . and how do you plan to be on guard . . ." (5 min.)

Day 5- The Seeker's Declaration- I will do what it takes to seek God with my whole heart.

1. Page 19, First question, "What is Moses doing?" (1 min.)
2. Page 19, Second question, "Who was invited . . ." (1 min.)
3. Page 20, First question, "What keeps people from responding to God's invitation . . ." (5 min.)
4. Page 21; Invite anyone who is willing to share their personal declaration. (3 min.)

Chapter 2: God Seekers Have a Place to Meet with God

Key Theme: Having a separate, private place set aside for the purpose of meeting with God will help you seek Him and find Him.

Key Verse: Matthew 6:6a "Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father . . ."

Key Points to Cover:

Day 1- Location, Location, Location – You are a Tent of Meeting. You house God's Holy Spirit!

1. Page 22, First question, Where did the idea for having a specific place to seek God originate?

2. Page 22, Third question, What is the name of the place where God Seekers met with God?
3. Page 23, Third question, Where does the Spirit of God live now?
4. Page 23, Fourth question, What makes it possible for God's Spirit to live in you?

Day 2- In You, Through You- God lives not only in you, but through you.

1. Page 25, What benefits do you enjoy as a child of God with His Spirit inside of you?
2. Page 25, Last question – Page 26 top half, How should this affect the way you live every day?
3. Page 26, middle paragraph, How do you react to the statement “. . . as a New Testament believer in Christ you don't go to church to find the presence of God. You bring the presence of God with you.”

Day 3- A Separate Place- Creating a separate place to meet with God can help you hear from Him.

1. Page 28, First question, Do you have a Tent of Meeting or any ideas for creating one?
2. Page 29, Second question, Why did Moses pitch the Tent so far from camp?
3. Page 30, 2nd to last paragraph, Interact with the quote from Richard Foster. Is this true? For you? For our society?
4. Page 31, last two questions, How do you handle solitude: 1) in general, 2) when it's for seeking God?

Day 4- A Private Place- Having a private place to seek God increases the intimacy in your relationship with Him.

1. Page 32, First question, What are some of the distractions that keep you from spending time with God?
2. Page 33, 5th paragraph, Why does the enemy fight your spending time with God and how does that make you feel to know he's pushing against your time with God?

Day 5- A Clear Purpose- Do you have a place set aside only for seeking God?

1. Page 34, Second question, Why is it important for your Tent to only have one purpose?
2. Page 35, First question, Who could be impacted by your time in the Tent?

3. Page 35, Last question, What do you want to see God do or change in you as you spend time in your Tent?

Chapter 3: God Seekers Establish a Pattern of Meeting with God

Key Theme: There's power in regularly meeting with God, but developing the habit will require effort.

Key Verse: Exodus 33:7b NASB "Everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent."

Key Points to Cover:

Day 1- Effort – Establishing a routine of seeking God won't happen by chance!

1. Page 37, Have you ever pitched an old fashioned tent?
2. Page 38 Last question -- 39 top, What are some of the specific efforts involved in seeking God?
3. Page 39, First question, What part will be most difficult for you?

Day 2- Leave it Behind- Seeking God must become a priority over other things.

1. Page 40, First question, What did Moses leave behind to seek God?
2. Page 41, Last question, What will you have to leave behind?
3. Page 42, How do you feel about getting up early to seek God? Have you ever tried this?
4. Page 43, First question, What do you learn about your enemy in Revelation?

Day 3- Persistence- Don't give up! Seeking God is a process.

1. Page 45, Last question, What do Isaiah and Peter reveal about God's timing?
2. Page 47, Middle paragraph, Are you ever tempted to "take over" for God when He seems to be moving too slowly for you?
3. Page 47, Third question, How did the Israelites do this in Ex. 32:1-4?
4. Page 48, Second question, How is God a reward for those who seek Him?

Day 4- Making Time- We'll never *find* time for God. We must *make* time for Him.

1. Daily: Page 50, First question, What are some advantages to meeting with God daily?
2. Weekly: Page 51, Last question, Why did God make the Sabbath?

3. Page 52 - 53, What could keeping the Sabbath look like for you? How could it help you seek God and find Him?
4. Page 53, Last question, When (what day or partial day of the week) could you give this a try?

Day 5- Looking Long-term- Plan ahead to enjoy sweet fellowship with your Heavenly Father.

1. Monthly: page 54, How do you feel about the Desert Day concept?
2. Page 55, First question, What would it take for you to have a Desert Day?
3. Occasionally: Page 54, Last line of 2nd to last paragraph, Why do you think God uses these special times away with Him as significant spiritual markers in your journey?

Chapter 4: God Seekers Possess a Passion for Meeting with God

Key Theme: Seeking God requires your whole heart.

Key Verse: Psalm 119:10a "I seek You with all my heart."

Key Points to Cover:

Day 1- Motivation – What are you waiting on?

1. Page 57, Last question, Who do you know that is a passionate person and why are they passionate?
2. Page 60, first full paragraph, What is the difference between someone who seeks and someone who gazes after God?
3. Page 60, Last question, What is your reaction to Galatians 1:10?
4. Page 61, Last question, What individuals in your life make your pursuit of God difficult?

Day 2- Crowd-leavers- God Seekers step out from the crowd.

1. Page 62-63, What two women are given as examples?
2. Page 62-62, How and why did Rahab and Ruth leave the crowd behind to seek God?
3. Page 64, Second question, Why do so few Americans seemingly pursue God whole heartedly?
4. Page 64, Last question, What is keeping you from stepping out with Him?

Day 3- Gazing- God Seekers make taking a good, long look at God a regular practice.

1. Page 67, First question, What were some of the everyday blessings the Israelites overlooked by not gazing at God?
2. Page 67, Last question, What daily miracles do you take for granted?
3. Page 68, Last question, Where does Hebrews 12:1-2 tell us our eyes should be fixed? Why?

Day 4- Worship- He is worthy!

1. Page 70, Third paragraph, How do we experience God secondhand today?
2. Page 70, What do you think about when you hear the word worship?
3. Page 70, First question, What does Romans 12:1-2 teach us about worship?
4. Page 71, What did you learn from Scripture about the paradox- giving up to gain?
5. Page 72, Last question, Have you ever asked God to give you a greater passion to seek Him? Why or why not?

Day 5- Increased Passion- We love Him because He first loved us and gave His life for us.

1. Page 73, First question, How does Ephesians 3 describe God's love for you?
2. Page 73, Last two questions, What increased the woman's passion for Christ in the story in Luke chapter 7?
3. Page 76, Second question, The disciples were ordinary men. What increased their passion according to Acts 4:13? How can this increase yours?
4. Page 77, Second question, How is seeking God different from being religious or doing things to keep God happy with you? How do you feel about seeking God in a daily relationship?

Chapter 5: God Seekers Experience the Presence of God

Key Theme: Friendship with God is the reward of the God Seeker.

Key Verse: Proverbs 8:17, "I love those who seek Me, and those who seek Me find Me."

Key Points to Cover:

Day 1- God Speaks- You can hear God's voice.

1. Page 81, Have you ever wished you could hear God speak aloud to you?
2. Page 81, Last question to top of 82, How did the voice of God sound in these Scriptures?
3. Page 82, Last question to top of 83, How did God speak in these examples?
4. Page 83, Last question, What is the biggest hindrance to hearing God speak?

Day 2- Moses Listens- You must make time for listening if you want to hear God's voice.

1. Page 84, First question, How can you be a good listener for what God wants to say to you?
2. How important is posture, etc. in hearing from God?

Day 3- Listen Expectantly- Wait on God believing that He will speak to you.

1. Page 87-88 What did you learn from Scripture about fasting?
2. How can fasting help you hear from God?
3. Page 90, top, What does 2 Tim. 3:16-17 tell us about how God's Word will speak to us?
4. Page 90, Second question, Do you have any personal examples of God speaking to you in one of these ways?
5. Page 93, top, How does intentional listening differ from constant listening?

Day 4- Listen Responsibly- What God speaks to you is vitally important to your relationship with Him.

1. Page 93, Third question, When are you most in danger of forgetting what God has said or done in your life?
2. Page 93 Who might God want to speak to through you?
3. How do you feel about keeping a record, a journal of what God speaks to you?
4. How could your journal become very important to your walk with Christ?

Day 5- Moses Speaks- God longs to hear from you.

1. Page 97, Second question, Read Hebrews 4:16 out loud. How are you to approach God in prayer?
2. Page 98, First question, What is your reaction to the way Moses speaks to God? Do you talk with God this way?
3. Page 99, Second question, What promises of God can you recall without having to look them up? Do you have Scripture to back them up?
4. Page 100, Last question, What are some of Moses' personal requests?
5. Page 102, Second question, What does Jeremiah 17:9 teach you about your secret-keeping heart?

Chapter 6: God Seekers Guard Against Pride

Key Theme: Pride is enemy #1 when it comes to seeking God.

Key Verse: 1 John 1:9a, "If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to us."

Key Points to Cover:

Day 1- A Dangerous Enemy-

1. Page 107, Questions 1 & 2, What character trait is used in Numbers 12:3 to describe Moses?
2. Page 108, Question 2, How are self-reliance and self-sufficiency valued today?
3. Page 108, Question 3, What do you learn in Phil. 3:3 that can help you when you're tempted to live independent of God?

Day 2- Humility Defined-

1. Page 109, Question 2, How many times does Moses say "I" in these verses?
2. Page 110, I AM/ i am exercise, What did you learn?

Day 3- Humility's Reward-

1. Page 112, Bottom of page, How many times was humble used throughout Deut. 8:1-20?
2. Page 113, Question 3, God used manna to keep Israel dependant on Him. Are there any circumstances He's used or is using in your life to train you in this area of humble dependence?
3. Page 113, Questions 4 & 5, How does pride prevent God's blessings?
4. Page 114, all, Talk about the kings and what you learned from these Scripture passages.
5. Page 115, Top question, What can you do to make sure you're growing in humility?

Day 4- Humility in Action, Part 1-

1. Page 116, Question 1, What is obedience?
2. Page 117, Question 1, When do you find it most difficult to obey God?
3. Page 117, Last question and page 118 question 1, What are some of the ways you rely on your own understanding?
4. Page 118, Question 3, What are you doing to remember all God has done for you?
5. Page 119, Last question, What lesson can we learn from the warning in Deut. 8:17-20?

Day 5- Humility in Action, Part 2-

1. Page 120, Question 3, Asa started out so well. To what can we attribute his early success? 2 Chron. 15:2; 12-15.
2. Page 121, Question 4, Why did God become displeased with Asa?

3. Page 122, Question 2, What warning is given in 1 Cor. 10:12?
4. Page 123, Question 3, What does Prov. 11:14 teach about receiving guidance?
5. Page 123, Questions 1 & 2, How well do you handle criticism and the input of others?
6. Page 123, Question 4, Who has permission to speak truth to you?