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## Come Closer

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Exodus 24:1-18

#### Discussion Questions

1. What makes a relationship precious and personal?
2. The Book of Exodus is about freedom FROM the bondage of slavery. It is also about freedom FOR intimacy with God. Israel was saved not just so they won't be slaves anymore, but also so that they can find joy in God. And that's the same for you. Read Exodus 24:1-18. Twice in this chapter that God said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord." (v. 1, 12) How would you feel if you got the same invitation? Would you hesitate, or would you come without missing a beat?
3. Moses shows in this passage three reasons to come closer to God when He invites you. First, you can come closer because forgiveness from God is available (v. 1-8). Moses takes a hyssop branch, dips it in ox's blood, and uses it to sprinkle the blood on God's people, symbolically indicating that they have been brought into a blood relationship with the God of Israel. Why is it not possible to simply come into fellowship with God? What does someone need to do in order to get over the obstruction of getting closer to God? What did animal offerings to the Lord in the Old Testament symbolize? How come we don't need to sacrifice animals to God anymore? How do you feel knowing that because of Christ's sacrifice, you can have fellowship with God? How does it affect the way you live? Discuss.
4. Secondly, you can come closer to God because fellowship is offered (v. 9-11). What amazing thing happened to Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the seventy elders of Israel as they went up and saw the God of Israel (v. 9). Did this mean that they saw God physically? What did they actually see? What did they share with God? What does eating together convey in relationships? Why did Jesus eat with different people from different walks of life while He was still on earth? Read and

discuss Revelations 3:20.

5. Thirdly, you can come closer to God because because waiting on Him is developed (v. 12-18). Why did God instruct Moses to come up to Him on the mountain and stay there? Did Moses hear from God right away? What was Moses's reaction when he had to wait on the Lord to speak to him? Have you ever had to wait on the Lord? Discuss what happens when we go ahead of God instead of waiting on Him. What does waiting teach you in your walk with God?

### Walk

In order to get closer to God, there must be forgiveness of sin and reconciliation first. Drawing close to God means sweet fellowship with Him and waiting on Him. What does waiting on the Lord mean to you? How close are you with God? Are you ready to accept God's offer of sweet fellowship with Him? Pray and examine your heart for sin, and ask for forgiveness to restore your relationship with God.

### Worship & Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the assurance of Your Word that a relationship with You means forgiveness and fellowship. Thank You for Your Son whose shed blood allowed for me to have these with You. I draw closer to You in His name. Search my heart for any sin and forgive me. As I wait on You to make Your presence known in my life, may I learn to trust You and be patient, knowing that You are God. These I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*