

**Where's Waldo?**

Waldo is a tall colorfully dressed young man who can be found in the crowded scenes of the "Where's Waldo?" picture books. The first scene might be on a busy street, the next at the beach, and then he'll be somewhere at a crowded concert or sports stadium; Waldo can be found in each one. He can be found, that is, if you seek diligently and carefully, because the pages are crowded with people and goings on that distract you from Waldo himself. Finding him is always rewarding. No matter where you open the book, Waldo can be found in every situation you face.

God wants us to seek him as well. In fact, the Bible tells us "devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God." (1 Chronicles 22:19.) Everywhere you turn and no matter where you are, God is there. Let's study together this week what it means to seek God's presence in every situation we face.

**Monday – Seeking God's Company**

*"Many who plan to seek God at the eleventh hour die at 10:30."* Anonymous

1. Please read Exodus 33:18-34:6. What do you think of Moses' request in 33:18? What do you think motivated Moses' request?
2. In Deuteronomy 4:25-31, what circumstance did Moses foresee? What did he tell the Israelites about seeking God?

**Making it Personal:** Do you experience God's blessing by turning to him every day? Ask God for the faith to seek him diligently.

**Tuesday – The Face of God**

*"That man is deceived who thinks it slavery to live under an excellent prince."* Claudian, 4<sup>th</sup> c. Roman poet

1. Please read Exodus 33:19-20. What did God promise Moses? How would this make you feel? What do you find interesting about God's description of himself?

**Text Insight:** In some ancient cultures, to enter the king's presence without permission, even if by accident, would bring the death sentence.

2. What did Jesus explain to his followers in John 14:1-14? What does the life and character of Jesus – God the Son – reveal about our heavenly Father?

**Making it Personal:** The more time you spend in God's word, the better you will understand his nature and appreciate the love he has for you.

**Wednesday – God's Protection**

*"In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step home within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God, and feel His good presence; this will carry you evenly through your day's business."* William Penn, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c. English politician

1. Please read Exodus 33:21-23. How did God propose to keep Moses from perishing in his presence? What do you think Moses thought as he looked upon the back of the God of the Universe?
2. Take a look at 1 Kings 19:9-18. What similarities do you see between Moses' experience and Elijah's? What differences? Why do you think Elijah pulled his cloak over his face?

**Text Insight:** As a prophet of God raised in Israel, Elijah would have been familiar with the Moses' interaction with God in Exodus 33-34, including the warning about no one being able to see God's face and live.

**Thursday – Sharing in God's Work**

*"In the Kingdom of God, service is not a stepping-stone to nobility: it is nobility, the only kind of nobility that is recognized."* T.W. Manson, 20<sup>th</sup> c. English theologian

1. Please read Exodus 34:1-4. What did God tell Moses to do? How did Moses respond?
2. Why do you think God did not create the tablets himself and then just hand the whole thing to Moses?
3. What work did Jesus give his followers to do in Luke 10:1-20? Why would Jesus not just visit these villages himself?

**Making it Personal:** What work do you think God offers you to do with him? Pray for God to show you where you can serve him today.

**Friday – God's Name, God's Character**

*"You are saved--seek to be like your Savior."* Charles Spurgeon, 19<sup>th</sup> c. English pastor

1. Please read Exodus 34:5-6. How does God describe himself? If you were to truly view God in this light, how would this affect you in your daily life?

**Text Insight:** The original Hebrew for "the LORD, the LORD" can be translated "I am, I am", "I am who I am" or "I will be what I will be." In addition to his compassion, graciousness, patience, love and faithfulness, God was announcing that his very existence is complete in itself. There is no beginning or end to him or his love.

2. Trace the common theme of 2 Chronicles 30:9, Nehemiah 9:16-17, Psalm 86:15-17, 103:7-10, 111:2-4, 145:8-9, and Joel 2:12-13. What various experiences in these passages caused these people to focus on God's character as revealed to Moses?

**Making it Personal:** How important is God's eternal compassion, etc., to you? Where in your life do you need his compassion?

**For the Weekend:** Compare Exodus 33:18-34:6 with John 14:1-14. What do you know about God the Father from the life of Jesus? How will you seek God daily? As the old saying goes, "if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." What is your plan for seeking God diligently?