



Discussion Guide
Encounters – Part 4
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

.....

In Encounters, we'll look at ordinary people in Scripture whose lives were changed by a direct encounter with the presence of God. As we lean into the vision of Coram Deo—living before the face of God—we'll discover that God's presence is not meant to be an occasional experience, but the defining reality that shapes every part of our lives.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

.....

"God has shown us that he can use any instrument. Balaam's (donkey), you remember, preached a very effective sermon in the midst of his hee-haws."

[C.S. Lewis]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

If your pet could talk, what would they be sure to tell you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, help us to laugh together, to learn together, and to receive Your word as spoken by the humblest of Your servants. Thank You that You do miracles and that You are full of mercy.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ||

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

[Joshua 1:9]

BIG IDEA ||

The overriding, overcoming, humbling presence of God stands in sharp contrast to "normal" Christianity and faith.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

1. What is a goal you have for this week? Something you want to accomplish or see happen?
2. Imagine God showing up and literally blocking you from achieving that goal. How would that go? What would you do?
3. Have you encountered spiritual or religious manipulation? What happened?

4. What is God's position throughout this story?
5. It seems like God changes His mind between the night (go with them, but do only what I tell you) and the morning (his anger was kindled). Why does this change in how Balaam experienced God matter?
6. Are there places where you've added some compromise with God, like Balaam was trying to do here?
7. What are some other stories of the lowly, humble, or unexpected being elevated by God as He reveals Himself?
8. Is there a decision you're facing that you need to factor in God's presence and His word?
9. What can we pray about together as a group and seek God's will and position about?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

We need to base every inclination, decision, and direction on **the wisdom and authority of God's word and the reality of His presence.**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) What decision do you need to hold open before the Lord and let Him speak His will? 2) What compromise or dual motive do you need to purify?

PRAYER FOCUS ||

"Lord, show us who You are. As we read Your word, seek Your face, listen for Your voice, and open ourselves to Your guidance, please let our eyes see, our ears hear, and our hearts receive what You have for us. Amen."