



“The Invitation” - February 22, 2026

Sermon by Pastor Tom VanAntwerp

Group Leader Notes

In *The Invitation*, Pastor Tom VanAntwerp reflects on **Book of Exodus 33** and the image of the Tent of Meeting, where Moses met with God “face to face, as one speaks to a friend.” Rather than seeing Lent as merely giving something up, the message reframes it as an invitation to intimacy with God. In a noisy, hurried, performance-driven world, God calls us to quiet the noise, slow down, and meet with Him. Through practices like Sabbath, fasting, and prayer, we posture ourselves not to earn God’s favor, but to receive His presence, rest, and delight. The promise given to Moses—“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest”—is the same invitation extended to us today: not better performance, but deeper friendship with God.

Main Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:7-11

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

- **The Pathway to Delight:** Pastor Tom suggests that “the pathway to spiritual delight comes through the doorway of spiritual discipline.” How have you experienced discipline leading to joy or intimacy with God in your own life? Where do you resist this idea?
- **A Quiet Spirituality in a Noisy World:** Moses pitched the tent “outside the camp” to meet with God. What are the biggest sources of noise in your life right now (external or internal)? What might it look like for you to create your own “tent of meeting” space during this season?
- **Slow Spirituality in a Hurried World:** Jesus was described as “unhurried.” What does hurry to your soul do? How might slowing down—through Sabbath or intentional stillness—help the “sand settle” in your life?
- **Relational vs. Transactional Faith:** Pastor Tom contrasts relational spirituality with a transactional world that measures value by productivity. In what ways do you tend to approach God transactionally (focusing on doing or achieving)? How can you grow in simply being with God?
- **God’s Delight in You:** God tells Moses, “I am pleased with you, and I know you by name.” What makes it difficult to believe that God delights in you personally? What would change in your daily life if you truly lived from that identity?

<https://youtu.be/2VleEqzE9Rw?si=o31OAxKZClpHA8rd>

