



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Exodus 33:12-17 | June 29, 2025

## I. Introduction to this Study

This week in our *Ordinary* series, we look at **Moses**, one of the most well-known figures in Scripture. Despite his towering role, Moses was deeply human—experiencing failure, burnout, rage, and disappointment. Yet again and again, he returned to the presence of God. This week's passage in Exodus 33 shows us a turning point: Moses refuses to keep moving forward without God's presence. His life reminds us that it's not willpower or talent that sustains us—it's the nearness of God.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Think of a time when you hit a wall—emotionally, spiritually, or physically. What helped you push through, and what role (if any) did God's presence play in that season?

## III. Study the Text

*Read Exodus 33:12–13*

- What does Moses express to God in these verses? What seems to be his emotional state?
- Why do you think Moses needs reassurance here, even after all he's seen God do?

*Read Exodus 33:14–15*

- How does God respond to Moses' concern? What does this say about God's character?
- Why do you think Moses insists on God's presence going with them?



- Have you ever tried to move forward in life or faith without God's presence? What was that like?

*Read Exodus 33:16–17*

- What does Moses say distinguishes God's people from everyone else?
- How does this help shape our understanding of Christian identity today?

*Reflect and Respond*

- Which of the six moments from Moses' life (hopelessness, desperation, burnout, rage, bitterness, or disappointment) do you relate to most right now?
- In those moments, do you typically rely on willpower, withdraw, or return to God's presence?
- How have you experienced God's presence bringing strength, courage, rest, or renewal in your life?
- What would it look like for God's presence—not your own pace—to guide your week?

#### IV. Prayer

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Invite God's presence into the areas of your life where you feel tired, angry, bitter, or stuck.
- Thank God for being willing to walk with you, not just send you out alone.
- Ask for discernment to recognize when you're rushing ahead without God.
- Pray for rest and renewal in the presence of the Lord.

#### V. Digging Deeper

*For additional reflection:*

- **Exodus 14:13–14** — How does Moses speak courage into the people's fear?
- **Numbers 11:14–17** — What does God do to help Moses in his burnout?
- **Psalms 16:11** — What does this verse say about the blessings of God's presence?

