

God Will Dwell With You Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you have a favorite room in the place you live now (or some other place you have lived)?
2. Before the pandemic began, what was one of your favorite places to go?

Read the following passages: John 1:1-3, 14; 14:15-24.

God desires to dwell with his people. Genesis 2 describes the garden in terms that ancient peoples would have associated with a temple or sanctuary, an indication that man's dwelling place was to be with God. After revisiting creation in the prologue to his Gospel, John tells us how Jesus, the Word, became flesh and made his dwelling among us. In fact, throughout his public ministry, Jesus regularly spent time in the homes of other people. And then, the night before his crucifixion, he promised his disciples that he and the Father would once again make their home with those who love him. God will dwell with his people.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. How would you characterize what things are like in your home right now? What would you like to see change (not so much physically, but regarding the relationships, activities, mood, and overall environment of your home)?
2. The Gospels record a number of instances in which Jesus healed people in their or someone else's home (see, for example, Mark 1:29-34). Can you think of any ways in which you would like to see healing come to (or through) your home? Explain.
3. Jesus' willingness to eat a meal with just about anyone drew the ire of many of the religious leaders of his day. This was especially the case when he shared meals with tax collectors. (See, for example, Mark 2:13-17; Luke 19:1-10.) In what sense were Jesus' actions steps toward reconciliation? What can we learn about reconciliation from his example?
4. Read Luke 10:38-42. What is significant about Luke's description of Mary as "[sitting] at the Lord's feet listening to what he said?" How is this scene countercultural? What does this passage teach us about discipleship? How do we keep discipleship central in our homes?

5. Many men and women had life-transforming experiences with Jesus in their (or another's) home. What are some ways you would like God to transform your life?
6. Have you dedicated your life and your home to God? If not, is that something you are ready to do?

Pray