

Presence

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. What are your plans for Christmas?
2. What would be a great present for someone to get you?

Read the following passage: 2 Timothy 4:6-22

As Paul neared the end of his life, his desire was to be with Timothy. Paul was familiar with many other ways God extends grace to his people: the cross, prayer, worship, the Scriptures, and others. Even so, there was no substitute for being in the presence of his spiritual son, Timothy. All of us need the presence of other people in our lives. The presence of others helps us get on mission and stay on mission. The presence of others ignites our emotions and provides protection. We were meant to live our lives in the presence of other people.

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

1. Are you regularly spending time in the presence of people who really know you and with whom you can be vulnerable? Explain.
2. Discuss how the presence of other people can help us in each of the following categories.
 - Getting on the mission God has for us
 - Persevering in the midst of challenges
 - Living an emotionally engaged and emotionally healthy life
 - Having protection for our blindspots
3. The apostle Paul experienced great challenges, great suffering, and great disappointment in his life. He had little money and very little status. Even so, he wrote about being “more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37) and receiving “victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). How would you describe a “victorious” life of following Jesus? How can the presence of other people help us experience such victory?
4. Are you helping anyone else get and stay on mission? Are you helping anyone else persevere? Are you helping anyone else live an emotionally engaged and emotionally healthy life? Explain.
5. What is one way you would like to grow in your relationships?

Pray