

The Holy Spirit and the Presence of God

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. Who is one person from history (other than Jesus!) you would like to spend a day with?
2. Do you regularly have long phone conversations? Explain.

Read the following passage: John 14:15-24.

God does not desire for us to live on our own. He intends for us to live with his presence. Jesus promised his disciples that he and the Father would make their home with the disciples in the person of the Holy Spirit.

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

1. Have you ever had moments in which you sensed God's presence? Explain.
2. What might affect our experience of God's presence? See, for example, Genesis 28:10-17; Psalm 73:21-26; Isaiah 59:1-3; Ephesians 4:29-32; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; James 4:8-10.
3. Read Hebrews 10:11-25. Compare and contrast the sacrifices made under the old covenant and Christ's offering of himself as a sacrifice for sins. What is significant about the Most Holy Place? Explain how it is that we can come near to a holy God.
4. Read Ephesians 2:14-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Explain the significance of the idea that Jesus' followers are now God's temple.
5. How does Jesus' life demonstrate that it can be very good news when God comes near to us? Read Isaiah 6:1-5. Why was Isaiah's experience of being in the presence of God so overwhelming?
6. What are some ways the presence of the Holy Spirit can be an incredible benefit to us? See, for example, John 16:12-15; Romans 8:14-16, 26-27; Galatians 5:22-25.
7. What is one way you can seek to be more aware of God's presence this week?

Pray