

Small Group Discussion

Week 16



Chapter 16 – God’s Presence on Earth

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

Coaching Conversations:

One of the most effective ways for you to care for and lead your group members is to be faithful in praying for them. Since heart-change and transformation is ONLY a work of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-15) you as the leader of your group need to make praying that the Lord would do a transforming work in their hearts a priority. This means praying over your group prep time, praying for your group member’s prayer requests frequently, even saying quick prayers while you’re leading so that the Lord would guide and direct your thoughts and questions. Prayer is essential! If you don’t know how to pray for your group members, consider using Colossians 1:9-11 as a guide. You can pray for each group member that God would (1) fill them with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding; (2) that they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects; (3) that they would bear fruit in every good work; (4) that they would increase in the knowledge of God; and (5) that they would be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience. While the Lord may use you in the process of spiritual growth, remember that you are not the source of growth, but an instrument. Transformation comes from God and God alone.

How HIS-story becomes My Story:

GOD’S STORY - God made a way for His people to be in His presence.

OUR STORY - Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, we never have to worry about losing the presence of God.

MY STORY - Receiving the Holy Spirit upon salvation is a prelude to experiencing God's full presence, to be enjoyed when He returns.

Starting the Conversation:

Reflect on the previous week in relation to this weeks reading. Did knowing that God has taken up residence within you affect how you lived and treated others?

Life Group Questions

1. Why is the presence of God so important for humanity?
2. Read Exodus 25:8–9 and 17–22. What is so significant about the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant?

3. Read Exodus 33:1–6. What makes this such a devastating pronouncement for the Israelites?
4. Consider God’s presence in your own life. How would you respond to the prospect of God’s blessing apart from God’s presence? Forget about how you “ought” to answer this, try to answer honestly.
5. Read Exodus 33:7–23. What stands out about Moses’s response?
6. As you think of the experiences Moses and Israel had with God, how might it affect the way you interact with God?
7. Read 1 Kings 8:1–13 and 27–30. What does this passage reveal about God’s glory and the significance of God’s dwelling among His people?
8. Read 1 Kings 9:1–9. What does God’s warning to Solomon teach us about what it means for God’s presence to dwell in the midst of His people?
9. How does what we have studied thus far help you understand the significance of God becoming man in Jesus and of the church being identified as a dwelling place for God?

Additional Recommended Resources:

“What does it mean to be in the presence of God?” – GotQuestions.org article

“What was the tabernacle of Moses?” - GotQuestions.org article

“What does it mean that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?” - GotQuestions.org article

Prayer Assignment:

Ask God to help you understand the significance of His presence on earth, and to help you live together with the other Christians in your life in a way that reflects His presence and glory in your midst.