

PRESENCE | WEEK 3

Date: December 11th, 2022

Verses: Luke 2:8-20



SERIES INSIGHT

Presence is a series designed to help draw our attention, affection, and devotion to the person, the power and presence of Jesus. We want to have a great measure of encounter - some for the first time, some to see God as more ever present, for some to be motivated to tangibly share the presence of God, but for all of us that God's presence may become more tangible and rich in our lives - near, close, and with.

ICEBREAKER

- What is the best Christmas gift you've ever received?
- Would you rather give or receive gifts?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Review the Message.** Looking back at your notes and upon reflecting on this weekend's message, what was your one takeaway from Sunday?
2. Think of a nativity scene (pull up a picture if helpful). Is there a character in the scene that you feel you identify with? How so?
3. Do you ever feel like you have to be "perfect" or to "have it all together" in order to come into the presence of God (ie. to attend church, to worship or pray)?
4. Read Luke 2:17-18. When the shepherds had seen Jesus, they were transformed. They then spread the word about him. So what about you? What does your life look like when you see/encounter the presence of God? What does it cause you to do? And in what ways?
5. Mo gave us two necessary and powerful questions to answer this week: "Is your relationship with Jesus the best thing that God has done in your life? And if it is, are you telling others about it?"
6. The shepherds realized that it wasn't enough to just be CLOSE to Jesus, they wanted to be WITH Jesus. But they knew that in order to be WITH, they had to be willing to surrender parts of themselves to experience the fullness of Him. What areas of your life are you holding onto that is holding you back from living out your life with Christ Jesus? What's holding you back from telling others about him?
 - **Leader Note:** Take some time talking through this one together and note some areas that your group can pray together and see God move this week.

PRAYER

- Allow people to share requests and celebrate any praise reports as well. Consider having someone write down the requests to share with the group. Take time to pray however long your group needs.
- Be sure to mark some time to pray for those people/families you are inviting to encounter the Presence of God, or to Christmas Eve at Grace this year.



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