

GOD WITH US

Week 3: Presence > Place

Ice Breaker: Have you ever had an item you considered lucky? What was it?

Objective: To encourage us to be intentional about living in the presence of God.

1) When God corrects our assumptions

Read: 2 Samuel 7:1–7

Discuss: What was David assuming about God and “a house”? How does God reframe it?

Apply: Where might you be assuming God needs your structure or plan instead of you needing His presence?

2) The pattern we repeat (Eden → Babel → Judges)

Discuss: Where do you see the “we said no” pattern (trust self > trust God) show up today—personally or culturally?

Apply: What is one concrete way you can practice “trust God and follow His lead” this week?

3) From dedication to superstition

Read: 2 Chronicles 7:1–2 (cf. 1 Kings 11:4–8 for the drift)

Discuss: How can genuine spiritual experiences drift into superstition or “lucky charm” faith?

Apply: Name a symbol, habit, or place you tend to treat as a guarantee of God’s favor. What would repentance look like?

4) “Don’t trust in deceptive words”

Read: Jeremiah 7:1–11

Discuss: What did God *actually* want from His people instead of temple talk?

Apply: Where is God calling you to practice justice, mercy, and integrity this week?

5) When glory leaves the building

Read: Ezekiel 10:18

Discuss: What does it mean for God’s glory to depart? What warning or hope does this give?

Apply: If God’s presence—not programs—marks a church, what practices help a group like ours guard and welcome His presence?

6) Protection in His presence

Read: Psalm 91:1–2; Psalm 23:4

Discuss: What is (and isn’t) promised about protection in these passages?

Apply: Where are you seeking safety in a *place* or *symbol* instead of in God Himself? What shift will you make?

7) Provision in His presence

Read: Exodus 16:10, 15

Discuss: How does manna teach dependence on God’s presence rather than on ideal circumstances?

Apply: Identify one current need. What daily practice (prayer, gratitude, simplicity, generosity) will help you rely on God for that need?

8) Power and identity: you are the temple

Read: Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Discuss: How does the Spirit’s presence give power and purpose beyond any location?

Final Thoughts: God will not be our lucky charm, but He loves to bless us with power, provision and protection if we will choose to dwell in His presence.

This Week: Name one specific place and one person you’ll go to *this week* to “be the temple.” What will you do or say?

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