

# The Space Between Us

**Objective:** To help us see that we cannot close the distance between ourselves and God, but in Jesus, God moved toward us and closed the space through the cross

**ICEBREAKER:** Have you ever had a relationship where you felt distance from someone even though you were still technically “connected”? What created the gap?

## 1. Feeling the Distance

The sermon asked: *Have you ever felt like there’s a distance? Like there’s a gap? Like there’s a space between you and God?*

- What tends to make God feel distant to you?
- Have you had seasons where you believed in God but did not feel connected to Him?
- What usually happens in your heart when that space feels real?

## 2. Palm Sunday: Celebration With a Deeper Meaning

Palm Sunday looked like a parade, a celebration, and the welcome of a king.

- What do you normally associate with Palm Sunday?
- How did this sermon deepen or shift your understanding of that day?
- Why is it important that Palm Sunday is more than just a celebration scene?

## 3. Close to Jesus... But Still Far

The sermon said it is possible to be physically close to Jesus and still spiritually far from Him.

- Why do you think that was true for some people in the crowd?
- How can that still be true for people in church today?
- What is the difference between being around spiritual things and truly drawing near to God?

## 4. Jesus Sees What the Crowd Does Not

While the crowd celebrated, Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

- Why do you think Jesus was weeping in the middle of all the praise?
- What did the crowd want from Jesus that was too small compared to what He came to do?
- How do we still sometimes want Jesus to solve surface problems while missing our deeper need?

## 5. We Cannot Close the Space Ourselves

The sermon emphasized that we cannot bridge the gap between a holy God and broken people by effort, religion, or performance.

- What are some ways people try to “close the space” on their own?
- Why are we tempted to believe we can work our way back to God?
- What happens when we build our relationship with God on performance instead of grace?

## 6. The Cross Closes the Space

We heard: *The cross is God closing the space between us.*

- What does that statement mean to you personally?
- How does the cross answer the question, “How can I be close to a God I can’t see?”
- Why is it important that Jesus came not just to inspire us, but to rescue us?

## 7. Drawing Near Through Jesus

Hebrews says that through the blood of Jesus, a new and living way has been opened so we can draw near to God.

- What stands out to you in that picture of access to God?
- What keeps people from drawing near even when the way is open?
- What might it look like for you to respond to Jesus by drawing near this week?

## 8. Palm Sunday as God Moving Toward Us

The sermon said: *On Palm Sunday is God moving toward us. On the cross is God closing the space between us.*

- How does it change your view of God to know that He moves toward people instead of away from them?
- Where do you most need to believe that truth right now?
- How might this change the way you pray, repent, worship, or come to God?

## **FINAL THOUGHT**

The distance between us and God is real, but it is not closed by our effort. It is closed by His mercy. Jesus did not wait for us to climb our way to God. He came near, carried the cross, and opened the way for us to draw near without fear. In Jesus, the space between us is closed.

## **THIS WEEK – DRAW NEAR**

Set aside intentional time this week to respond to what Jesus has already done.

- Thank Him for moving toward you.
- Confess anything that has kept your heart distant.
- Receive His forgiveness instead of trying to earn His nearness.

Write down:

- Where have I been feeling distance from God?
- What lie have I been believing about why I cannot come near?
- What would it look like to draw near to Jesus this week in trust?

Do not treat drawing near to God as something you must achieve. Receive it as the invitation Jesus has already made possible.