



bigIdea small group discussion

To understand all that God did through the birth of His son Jesus to radically change and redeem our story. God gave us a whole new way to live, to love, and have relationship with him and others...all through the birth of a little baby, born in a forgotten town, to a teenage mother.

Today as we close this series, we're going to look at the word *in*—how God is not only *with*. That God is not only *for*. That God not only wants to work *through*. That God actually wants to be *in* your life. God wants to be involved and in every day that you live. *In* your family. *In* your job situation. That God wants to live and set up shop *in* you—forever.



BIG IDEA: God wants to be in your life and in every area of your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you were growing up, how big was your family on putting up outdoor Christmas lights?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 1:24-27.* Paul speaks of a mystery. What is the mystery he speaks of? How is this mystery different than how God worked in the Old testament? Does this mystery excite you? Why or why not?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Ephesians 1:13-14 and compare it to 1 Samuel 16:13-14 and Psalm 51:10-11.* Chris said that the Holy Spirit worked very differently from the Old Testament and the New. In the New Testament times and today, when someone becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes into their lives to live permanently. In your own words, how would you describe how God dealt differently with people in the Old Testament? In the New Testament?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Judges 13:25, 14:6, 14:19, 15:13-15, 16:19-20.* Where did Samson's strength come from?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Psalm 51:10-11.* David asked God to not take the Holy Spirit from him because of his disobedience and sin. Why as Christians do we never need to pray David's Prayer? (refer back to Ephesians 1:13-14 and Romans 8:31-39)
6. What has been your understanding of the Holy Spirit?
7. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read John 14:16-17 and John 16:7.* These verses describe why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be among us and to interact in our lives. The Holy Spirit is not a thing or an "it," He is a part of the person of God.
8. Why is having the Holy Spirit being active in our lives such an important part of our walk with Christ?
9. How is the Holy Spirit being in us better than having Jesus on earth with us?
10. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read John 16:12-13, Isaiah 30:31, and John 16:8-9.* These verses show how the Holy Spirit is the voice of God we need to guide us.
11. When you think back, can you see a time when the Holy Spirit was leading you? Did He comfort, counsel, or convict you?
12. Chris asked the question, "Is God in your life?" What would you tell the group? What evidence is there that God is in your life currently? Describe how you need His presence in your life.
13. Chris asked the question, "What areas of your life is God not in?" Are you allowing God to be a part of every area of your life? What areas do you struggle including God and His priorities in your life?

Lord of Lords
Wonderful Counselor

MOVING FORWARD

In the Old Testament, God would show up and help certain people and give certain people direction but for the most part, people kept their distance from God—because He was perfect and holy. And God kept His distance from you—because you and I are imperfect and unholy. When Jesus came, He made you and I perfect and Holy so that God’s Spirit could actually reside *in* us, and in every area of our lives.



This week, reflect on areas of your life where you have segregated God and left God out. Is your relationship with God like an ice cube tray? What areas are you shutting him out? How can you begin to let God in those areas?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*For ages and ages this message was kept secret from everyone, but now it has been explained to God’s people. God did this because he wanted you to understand a wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that **Christ lives in you**, and he is your hope of sharing in God’s glory. Colossians 1:26-27*

Wonderful Counselor
Almighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace