



Discipleship Guide

Sermon: The Heart of The Home | Presence

Speaker: Pastor John Eric Zayas

Date: June 22, 2025

Small Group Guide: People of the Presence

Key Takeaways

- God desires to be close to us and reveal Himself personally.
- We are called to be "people of the presence" - hungry for God's presence and bringing others into it.
- God's presence is holy and requires reverence, but also intimate and transformative.
- Worship is an opportunity to experience God's presence in a special way.

Discussion Questions

1. The pastor emphasized God's desire for closeness with us. How does this view of God compare to your previous understanding of Him?
2. Reflect on a time when you felt particularly close to God. What was that experience like, and how did it impact you?
3. The sermon mentioned being "closed off" in worship. Have you ever found yourself in this position? What might cause us to be guarded in God's presence?

4. How does understanding God's holiness (as in the Moses and burning bush story) balance with His desire for intimacy with us?
 5. The pastor said, "He doesn't want to be limited to some dusty book that is on your counter." How can we make God's presence a more active part of our daily lives?
 6. What does it mean to you to be a "person of the presence"? How might this change your approach to faith and daily life?
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Practical Applications:

1. This week, set aside time each day to intentionally seek God's presence through prayer, worship, or meditation on scripture.
 2. Practice "opening up" to God during your personal or corporate worship times. Be mindful of your posture and attitude as you approach Him.
 3. Identify one person in your life who seems distant from God. Commit to praying for them and look for opportunities to invite them to experience God's presence.
 4. Reflect on areas of your life where you may be holding back from God. Write these down and pray for God's help in surrendering them.
 5. As a group, brainstorm ways you can cultivate a greater awareness of God's presence in your church community.
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Closing Prayer: Lord, thank you for your desire to be close to us. Help us to become truly "people of the presence," hungry for more of you and eager to bring others into your presence. May we approach you with both reverence for your holiness and openness to your intimacy. Transform us as we draw near to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

5-Day Devotionals

Day 1: Experiencing God's Presence

Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

Devotional: Just as Moses encountered God in the burning bush, we too are invited into God's presence. The Lord desires to reveal Himself to us personally, not as a distant deity, but as a close and loving Father. Today, reflect on times you've felt God's presence. How did it change you? Remember, God's holiness requires reverence, but through Christ, we can draw near with confidence. As you go about your day, be attentive to God's presence around you. Look for the "burning bushes" in your life - those moments where God is trying to get your attention and reveal Himself to you.

Day 2: The God Who Breathes Life

Reading: Genesis 2:4-7

Devotional: The image of God breathing life into Adam is a powerful reminder of our Creator's intimate involvement in our existence. This same God desires to be close to you, to animate your life with His Spirit. Consider how God's breath - His Spirit - is at work in your life right now. Are there areas where you feel spiritually lifeless? Invite God to breathe new life into those areas. Remember, just as Adam's first sight was God's face, our primary focus should be on seeking God's presence and allowing His life-giving Spirit to fill and guide us.

Day 3: God's Desire for Closeness

Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Devotional: The parable of the Prodigal Son beautifully illustrates God's longing to be close to His children. Like the father in the story, God eagerly awaits our return when we've wandered away. He runs to meet us, embracing us in our brokenness. Reflect on your own journey with God. Have there been times when you've felt distant from Him? Remember that no matter how far you've strayed, God's love remains constant, and He

desires reconciliation. Today, take a step towards God, knowing He is already moving towards you with open arms.

Day 4: The Torn Veil and Open Access

Reading: Matthew 27:50-51, Hebrews 10:19-22

Devotional: The tearing of the temple veil at Jesus' crucifixion symbolizes our newfound access to God's presence. No longer do we need a mediator or a special place to encounter God. Through Christ's sacrifice, we can approach God directly. How does this truth impact your daily life and your approach to prayer? Consider the incredible privilege we have to enter God's presence freely. Today, approach God with boldness, knowing that Christ has made a way for you to come close to the Father.

Day 5: Living as People of God's Presence

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:19-22

Devotional: As believers, we are now the temple of God's Spirit. His presence doesn't just visit us; it resides within us. This truth should transform how we view ourselves and how we live. Reflect on what it means to be a "person of the presence." How can you cultivate a greater awareness of God's indwelling Spirit? Consider how this reality might change your interactions with others, knowing that you carry God's presence wherever you go. Today, live with the conscious awareness that you are a walking temple of the Holy Spirit, and let that truth influence your words, actions, and attitudes.