



# Discipleship Guide

*Sermon: Encountering God's Presence*

*Speaker: Pastor John Zayas*

Date: September 7, 2025

## Key Takeaways

- God is in control, even when circumstances seem chaotic.
- Our perspective shapes how we respond to unexpected challenges.
- Faith in God can transform individuals and communities.
- We are called to live with purpose and share the Gospel.

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## Discussion Questions

1. The pastor talks about seeing God "high and lifted up" (Isaiah 6:1). What does this image mean to you? How can we cultivate a greater awareness of God's majesty in our daily lives?
2. Reflect on a time when something unexpected interrupted your plans. How did you respond? Looking back, can you see how God might have been working through that situation?
3. The sermon mentions "dry bones" coming to life. In what areas of your life do you feel spiritually dry? How can we encourage each other to seek renewed passion and purpose?
4. The pastor emphasizes the importance of sharing the Gospel. What fears or

hesitations do you have about evangelism? How can we support each other in becoming more bold witnesses for Christ?

5. The sermon touches on the theme of trusting God's process, even when we don't understand. Share an experience where you had to trust God despite uncertainty. What helped you maintain faith during that time?
6. How does the reality of Christ's return impact how you live your daily life? In what ways can we cultivate a greater sense of urgency in our faith and mission?

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## **Practical Applications:**

1. Daily Perspective Check: Each day this week, take a moment to consciously shift your focus from your circumstances to God's sovereignty and love.
2. Community Impact: Identify one practical way you can serve or bless your neighborhood this week, inspired by the story of community transformation shared in the sermon.
3. Gospel Sharing: Practice sharing your testimony or a simple Gospel presentation with a fellow group member. Commit to looking for an opportunity to share your faith with someone outside the church this month.
4. Worship Challenge: Spend 10 minutes each day this week in focused worship, using the "Holy, Holy, Holy" refrain mentioned in the sermon as a starting point.
5. Faith Goals: Write down one "impossible" thing you're believing God for. Share it with the group and commit to praying for each other's faith goals.

Closing Prayer: Thank God for His presence and power. Ask for increased faith, boldness in sharing the Gospel, and a deepened awareness of His work in our lives and communities.

## 5-Day Devotionals

### Day 1: The Power of the Holy Spirit

Reading: Acts 1:1-8, Acts 2:1-4

Devotional: The sermon emphasized the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers. Just as the early disciples were filled with power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, we too need that same power in our lives today. Reflect on areas where you feel powerless or inadequate. How might inviting the Holy Spirit to work in those areas change things? Ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit, empowering you to live boldly for Him and to be His witness in the world.

### Day 2: Repentance and Renewal

Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-27, Acts 3:19-20

Devotional: The pastor spoke about the need for repentance - not just saying sorry, but truly turning away from sin and towards God. God promises to give us a new heart and put His Spirit within us. Consider what areas of your life need renewal. Are there sins you've been holding onto or justifying? Take time to confess these to God, asking Him to cleanse you and give you the strength to turn away from them. Thank Him for His mercy and the new life He offers through Christ.

### Day 3: Living by Faith

Reading: Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: The sermon touched on the importance of faith and trusting God even when we can't see the outcome. Living by faith means relying on God's promises rather than our own understanding or abilities. What situations are you facing right now that require faith? How can you practically demonstrate trust in God in those areas? Ask God to increase your faith and help you walk confidently in His promises.

#### Day 4: Freedom in Christ

Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Devotional: The pastor emphasized that we are called to be free in Christ, but that this freedom should lead us to holiness, not license to sin. Reflect on what true freedom in Christ means. How does it differ from the world's definition of freedom? Consider the fruits of the Spirit listed in this passage. Which ones do you see growing in your life? Which ones need more cultivation? Ask the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit in you as you walk in the freedom Christ offers.

#### Day 5: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:18-39

Devotional: The sermon acknowledged that following Christ doesn't exempt us from difficulties, but assured us of God's presence in our suffering. This passage reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love. Think about challenges you're currently facing. How might viewing them through the lens of God's unwavering love change your perspective? Take time to thank God for His constant presence, even in your darkest moments. Ask Him to help you trust His goodness and purposes, even when you can't understand your circumstances.