



You're Not Far from God
WEEK 2: Unsettling
(Mark 1:15; 1:40-45; 2:1-14 NIV)

Do you ever feel far from God? It's not uncommon. As it turns out, God is closer than you think. Join us as we study the true story of Simon Peter to explore how you are never far from God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [ICEBREAKER] Do you have a favorite bible story or a favorite modern autobiography?
2. Pastor William spoke about three disruptive, paradigm-shifting stories about Jesus told by Peter which impacted the historical worldviews of the time. The themes included (1) Ignoring religious protocols; (2) Claiming to have the power to forgive sin; and (3) Being uncomfortably comfortable with unrepentant sinners. Which of these themes do you think might have been an obstacle you had to overcome to accept Christ as your savior? Or which theme are you still struggling with on your journey toward God?
3. Jesus ignored many religious protocols of that time in order to heal others. Have you come across any religious protocols that have challenged you? How might you help others understand this struggle, or do you need to ask for help in understanding your obstacles?
4. Think about Levi, the tax collector, who was not liked by others when Jesus told him to "Follow Me.", and how he might have been received into the group. How do you react to people who are different from you when they join your social groups? What feelings do you have internally? Do you see a difference in how you react depending on what social group you are in (small group, work, school, or out in your community)? If so, where might you need to ask God to "soften your heart"?

MOVING FORWARD

Perfect Faith:
Being Confident Jesus Can
And Hopeful that He Will

*“The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news!’ ”*
—Mark 1:15 (NIV)