

Small Group Guide: Jesus Is Here

Opening Question: If you could spend a day walking anywhere in the world with Jesus, where would you choose to go, and what would you talk about?

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts—thankful for the opportunity to gather together and study Your Word. We ask for Your presence to be with us, guiding our discussion and opening our hearts to the truths You want us to understand. Help us to be aware of Your omnipresence in our lives and to walk in Your Spirit daily. May this time deepen our relationship with You and with each other. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

Key Takeaways:

1. God is omnipresent - He is everywhere at all times.
2. Being aware of God's presence can provide comfort, guidance, and help in resisting temptation.
3. Walking in God's presence is a daily, intentional choice.
4. The Spirit-controlled life starts with a decision, but it is maintained through ongoing obedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Dan mentions that many believers struggle with feeling God's presence. Why do you think this is? Have you experienced this struggle?
2. **Read Jeremiah 23:23-24:** How does understanding the omnipresence of God (that He is everywhere) impact your daily life and your perception of God's role in it? Can you share a moment when recognizing God's presence brought you comfort or assurance?
3. The sermon emphasizes that walking in God's presence is different from salvation. How would you explain this difference to someone new to faith?

Pastor Dan uses the analogy of "stepping out of bounds" to illustrate the importance of living within the boundaries of God's teachings and guidance. In this analogy, living within the bounds represents walking in the Spirit and being obedient to God's principles. You are called to remain within the "bounds" of God's will.

When you step out of bounds, it represents making choices that are contrary to God's guidance. Just as stepping out of bounds in a sport stops play, moving outside the boundaries of God's will can lead to consequences and hinder spiritual growth. Pastor Dan emphasizes that the presence of Christ acts as a referee, alerting us (like a referee blowing a whistle) when we've stepped out of bounds. We are called to listen, repent, and return to obedience. This ensures that we are walking in the Spirit and experiencing the fullness of God's presence in our lives.

4. **Read Colossians 3:15:** The verse mentions letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. How can we practically ensure that the peace of Christ acts as a referee in our lives, especially when faced with tough decisions or conflict? Discuss Pastor Dan's analogy of "staying in bounds" when walking with God. What are some ways we might step "out of bounds" in our spiritual lives?
5. **Read Galatians 5:16-18:** What does walking in the spirit look like in your everyday activities and decisions? Can you identify specific areas in your life where you tend to step out of bounds, and how can you better stay aligned with the Spirit's guidance?
6. **Read Psalm 139:7-12:** The Psalmist speaks of God's presence being inescapable, even in darkness. How does this truth affect how you handle difficult or challenging situations? How does the idea of God's presence impact how we view temptation and sin?

Pastor Dan refers to the "secret sauce" to victorious living as the conscious and daily decision to walk in the presence of the Lord. This involves recognizing God's omnipresence and choosing to be led by the Spirit each day. By making a willful choice to walk in His Spirit and stay within His boundaries, believers can experience the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. This practice allows one to live a life marked by the Spirit's guidance, resulting in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which are representations of victorious Christian living.

7. Do you feel this "secret sauce" analogy is helpful when you think about your Christian life?
8. **Read Galatians 5:22-23:** Identify a situation where you experienced one or more aspects of the fruit of the Spirit. How can being more attuned to the Spirit's presence throughout your day help cultivate this fruit in greater abundance?

Practical Applications:

1. Start each day this week by consciously acknowledging God's presence and choosing to "walk" with Him.
2. Practice being aware of God's presence in different settings (work, home, social gatherings). How does this awareness change your behavior or thoughts?
3. When faced with a temptation or difficult decision this week, pause to consider God's presence. How might this impact your choices?
4. Reflect on areas of your life where you might be "out of bounds." What steps can you take to realign with God's will?
5. Choose one fruit of the Spirit to focus on developing this week as you practice walking in God's presence.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, we thank You for the insights and fellowship shared in our Group today. Teach us to walk faithfully in Your Spirit, making choices that honor You. May Your peace rule in our hearts, guiding us always. We ask for Your blessing this week on each of our Group members and their families. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.*