

“God is Closer than You Think” L. 5 God Wants Relationship with You (Oct. 25, 26, 27, 30 & 31st)

1. Opening Prayer & Sharing (What’s your favorite sports or sports team?)
2. How does “Jesus’ incarnation(coming to earth to live with us) have impact on our every day life?” What does it mean to be made in God’s image (be a dwelling place of God , be a God-carrier)? Do you feel that you are a carrier of God’s presence? What differences does it make in terms of how we view other people and our relationship with them?
3. **Watch video** – Any comment on *the Bible’s definition of “church”, *the various ways of connecting with God, *Jesus’ presence in His followers, (What did you learn about how you become aware of God’s presence and grow spiritually? Share your spiritual pathway with the group)
4. One of the most powerful ways we experience God is through people. How might our interaction with one another change if we truly believe this?
5. Read the scripture below. What was Jesus willing to do in order to connect with us? What does this scripture reveal about God’s characters?

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage;⁷ rather, **Jesus made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a human, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!**

6. Read the scripture below. After Jesus was ascended to heaven, He told us that the Holy Spirit would form a new community that would become His new body, His presence in the world. How can we(church) become an evident presence of Jesus according to this scripture? What do we need to do to help others experience God’s presence with our spiritual pathways?

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been

kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ **To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:24-27)**

7. Read the scriptures below. God often send His messages thorough ordinary people who may not impress us as being God-carriers. What is surprising for you to hear Jesus promises in these scriptures? What difference do they make in how you approach prayer, fellowship with other believers, service, mission and helping others in need?

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.** ²⁰ **For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**" (Matthew 18:19-20) .

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, '**Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?** ³⁸ **When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?** ³⁹ **When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?**'⁴⁰ "The King will reply, '**Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**' (Matthew 25:35-40)

8. What can you do to be more appreciative of people whose spiritual pathways are quite different from you? In what ways have other people helped you see God's presence in new ways? In what ways has God used you reveal His presence to other people? Which person(s) in your life might you be overlooking and thereby missing an opportunity to experience more of God's presence?
9. Read together – **"God, use me to help others to find You this week! Guise me to look at another person without having a sense of awe and reverence that says, "Ah.. this is one in whom God may dwell."**
10. Joys & concerns & Closing prayer