
AND LET THEM **MAKE** ME
A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY
DWELL IN THEIR MIDST.
Exodus 25:8
MAKE WAY
MAKE WAY *IN US*
MAKE WAY *THROUGH US*

God Comes Near | John 1:1-18

ICEBREAKER

What's something you were really looking forward to that turned out to be even better than you expected?

OR

Who is someone whose presence makes a difficult situation easier, even if they can't change the circumstances?

SMALL GROUP WEEK 6 VIDEO (5:17)

Scan QR code below or on your HOST RESOURCES Card to watch this week's video.
Before beginning the rest of your discussion, take time as a group to respond to the question in the video.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout Scripture, we see God's desire to dwell with His people—from the Garden of Eden to the Tabernacle and Temple. In John 1, we discover that everything God's people longed for has arrived in a Person: Jesus Christ. The greatest gift of the gospel isn't simply forgiveness of our sins, but the restoration of God's presence with us.

What stood out to you most from this week's message?

INTO THE WORD

Read John 1:1–5, Colossians 1:15–17, and Psalm 16:11.
John introduces Jesus as the eternal Word through whom all things were created and the source of life and light. How does understanding who Jesus is change the way we think about what we need most from God?

> **Host Guidance:**
> John and Paul establish that Jesus is eternal, fully God, and the source of all life. Psalm 16:11 reminds us that fullness of joy is found in God's presence. While God cares deeply about our circumstances, our greatest need is a relationship with Him. We often approach God primarily for solutions to our problems rather than seeking His presence. Help your group consider the difference between wanting what God can do for us and treasuring who He is.

Read John 1:9–13, Revelation 3:20, and John 14:1–3.
John tells us that Jesus came into the world He created, yet many did not receive Him. Why do you think people sometimes resist a relationship with God, even when they recognize their need for Him? Jesus describes preparing a place for us in heaven, but His ultimate promise is that we will be with Him. How does understanding that heaven is about a Person, not just a place, change the way we think about our relationship with Jesus today?

> **Host Guidance:**
> John describes the tragedy of humanity rejecting the very One who created us. At the heart of sin is our desire for independence rather than surrendering to God. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus addresses a complacent church, inviting them to renewed fellowship with Him. Even believers can become so comfortable or distracted that they neglect their relationship with Jesus. In John 14, Jesus promises not only a place in heaven but an eternity spent in His presence. Heaven's greatest gift isn't simply a beautiful destination or freedom from suffering, but being with Jesus Himself. Encourage your group to consider whether they treasure Jesus for who He is or primarily for what He provides.

Read John 1:14 and Hebrews 4:14-16.
Why is it significant that God chose to come personally rather than simply send a message or provide a solution? How should knowing that Jesus is both fully God and someone who understands our human experiences influence the way we approach Him?

Host Guidance:
The word translated "dwelt" carries the idea of pitching a tent or tabernacling among us. Just as God's presence filled the Tabernacle in the Old Testament, His presence is now revealed through Jesus. God did not remain distant from humanity's brokenness; He entered our world and lived among us. Through Jesus, we see God's glory expressed through both grace and truth. Because of His life, death, and resurrection, we can approach God with confidence, knowing that He understands our weaknesses and offers mercy and grace. We don't have to hide our struggles or make ourselves worthy before coming to Him. Encourage your group to consider how Jesus changes their understanding of God's character and His desire to be near us.

Read John 1:15–17 and John 15:4–5.
John describes receiving "grace upon grace" through Jesus, while Jesus later invites His followers to abide in Him. How is living in an ongoing relationship with Jesus different from trying to earn God's approval? What does it look like to depend on His presence in everyday life?

Host Guidance:
John reminds us that God's grace is something we receive, not something we achieve through our own efforts. Jesus came to restore the relationship with God that sin had broken. In John 15, Jesus describes this relationship as abiding in Him—remaining connected to Him as our source of spiritual life and fruitfulness. We can easily reduce faith to religious activities, spiritual accomplishments, or trying harder to be better. But genuine transformation flows from our relationship with Jesus, not from striving to earn His love. Help your group consider how seeking His presence can shape their daily decisions, relationships, and priorities.

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Throughout *Make Way*, we've seen that God's desire has always been to dwell with His people and have a relationship with us. From the beginning of creation, His plan has been to draw us into His presence. Jesus was not God's "emergency plan" to rescue us from sin; He is eternal and central to God's plan from the beginning. Through Jesus, God made the ultimate move toward us, restoring the relationship sin had broken. We don't have to earn His presence or prove ourselves worthy of His love. We are invited to receive Him and make Him central to our lives.

How might our daily lives look different if we approached each day with a greater awareness that God is with us, rather than simply looking to Him when we need something?

Take Your Next Right Step — Seek God Daily:
Set aside intentional time each day to enjoy God's presence without bringing a list of requests. Read a portion of John 1, reflect on who Jesus is, and thank Him for coming near. Ask God to help you treasure your relationship with Him above what He can do for you.

PRAYER

Close by praying for one another, especially in areas where group members shared a tendency to rely on themselves or seek God's help more than His presence. Thank God for coming near through Jesus and ask Him to deepen each person's desire to know Him, trust Him, and live in the reality of His presence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Make sure to post a weekly photo of your group in your campus Facebook group for a chance to win a pizza party.

Don't forget to take attendance for your group!