



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

Did you ever have a DTR (define the relationship) conversation that didn't go as anticipated?

Have you ever been in a long-distance relationship? If so, how was that relationship compared to other relationships? Did the relationship work out?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, we continue our conversation about the Holy Spirit in our series Better This Way, exploring how our relationship with Jesus is better with the Holy Spirit being a part of it.

1. What stuck out to you the most from the message this week?

Pastor Kevin started the message this week talking about long-distance relationships. Sometimes our relationship with Jesus can feel like a long-distance relationship. We can feel like He is far away and we sense a gap between us. One reason we can feel this disconnect in our relationship with anyone and especially Him is because of shame. Shame of what we have done puts distance between others and us.

2. Have you ever felt a growing distance in a relationship because of shame? How did you deal with it?

We read in Genesis about the sin of Adam and Eve and how it created a gap between them and God. God never wanted the gap between them. He wanted a relationship where He walked with Adam and Eve.



Just as Adam and Eve felt a gap between God, another group of people in Genesis 11 did, as well. They decided to build a giant tower to get closer to God. At first, it looks like a good thing, attempting to grow

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closer to God. But soon we realize that it's not about wanting to be close to God, but rather they are building themselves up and becoming prideful of their works.

3. What are some ways you have you tried to impress God in the past? Where have you made it more about the good things you are doing to impress Him and less about your relationship with Him?

God wants relationship with us. He doesn't want us to try to impress Him. He wants to walk with us.

Many times in the Old Testament, we see where God walked and dwelled among His people. He used a tent as a dwelling place to meet with His people because it was portable. He could go with them wherever they went.

Read Exodus 29:44-46

4. Have you ever had a place where you felt like you met with God? What kind of place was it? Describe it to your group.

Read John 1:14

When we get into the New Testament, we see where God dwells among His people by sending Jesus. Jesus became the dwelling place (tabernacle or tent) for God to be with us in the flesh.

As we read in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), we see where Jesus walks with His disciples. He is "dwelling" with them, building relationships until He dies on the cross for their sins and the sins of everyone to ever live in this world. He does this to close the gap between God and us.

However, right before Jesus dies, He tells the disciples that He is leaving and sending the Spirit to dwell among them (John 16: 7-11).

If you were a disciple, can you imagine what you would have thought? What could be better than Jesus walking with you?

5. What is more difficult for you to grasp: the thought of Jesus dying for your sins or the Holy Spirit given to you to dwell in you?

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Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to come and dwell among the disciples, but He told them to wait for it. He wanted them to wait and trust in Him and in His timing that the Spirit would come.

It took 10 days for the Holy Spirit to descend on the disciples. It came on the day of Pentecost, where a few thousand Jewish people were gathered to celebrate. When the Spirit came and moved, 3,000 people became followers of Jesus that day.

Instead of trying to do all the right things to impress God and get closer to Him, the disciples simply sought after Him, waited and trusted Him, and He poured out His spirit on them.

6. Describe a time where you waited on God and felt His presence change in your circumstance and in your life.

Maybe you haven't felt that way before. You haven't felt God's dwelling in you.

7. How do you feel God dwelling in you? If you don't, why do you think that is?

If you aren't feeling that intimacy and dwelling with God, there's a few things you can do to help:

1. Make a tent - a place to meet with God
2. Take a walk - maybe even bring a friend along with you who encourages you in your faith
3. Define the relationship - do you have a relationship with Jesus? If not, it's never too late.

8. Do you have a place you meet with Jesus? If so, tell your group about it. Do you have a friend who encourages you to walk with Jesus? If so, tell your group about it. Do you have a relationship with Jesus? If not, do you want one?

If you haven't committed to following Jesus, you can do so now. Below is a simple prayer you can pray to Him to commit to following Him.

Jesus, I realize that because of my sin, there's a gap in my relationship with You. I understand that Your life and death on the cross means my sins can be forgiven and You can close that gap. My hope is in Your resurrection. I want to follow You. I want to walk with You — no more long-distance relationship. I invite Your Holy Spirit into my life.

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CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank You for dwelling among us and for Your Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Because of the Spirit, we have a 1 to 1 relationship with You. Let Your Spirit guide us to a closer relationship with You. We love You and thank You for all You do for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTION STEP

Pick one way to become more intimate with Jesus this week: make a tent, take a walk or define the relationship.

Share your plan with your group and come back next week to talk about how you grew closer to God and His Spirit this week.

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