



Presence

Moses once prayed: “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here... What else will distinguish me and your people from all other peoples on earth?” (Exodus 33:15-16)

We hold the same conviction. The Christian faith is not a set of self-help principles so we can do life more effectively. It's relationship: a daily walk with Jesus. To this end, we are totally dependent on God's presence with us, and want to centre our lives and our church on him, through building a culture of worship, repentance, prayer, and learning the Scriptures together. This week we're exploring our call to be with Jesus – having his presence distinctly shape our lives and practices.

Key Texts

Exodus 33:15-16; Psalms 16:11; 27:4-8; 73:23-26

Start (45 mins)

- **Food:** we suggest a simple recipe to get the evening started! Gathering people around food – no matter how simple – is a great way of feeling at home and in community with others.
- **Welcome:** during the meal you might want everyone to introduce who they are, how long they've been in London, and how they got connected with Christ Church London. This is especially helpful for any new people who've started attending this term.
- **Pray:** take 5 minutes to pray for your community and our church as we enter this new season. Pray that God might speak to each of us as we seek to follow Jesus together. It's always great to leave some space of silence (2 mins) for us to bring our hearts before God, confessing our sins, thanking him for the cross, and asking for his Holy Spirit to speak and guide us on our journey.

Introduction (5 mins)

Set the scene for the evening. You might want to read the session introduction above as a way to set conversation in context and help people prepare. It's helpful to recap the previous session to include anyone who is new.

Watch Video (20 mins)

Value 1: Presence

Questions & Reflections (15–20 mins)

Feel free to use any questions that feel appropriate for your group. Some suggestions are below. For groups bigger than eight, you might want to break into smaller groups to foster more conversations.

1. Where are you already aware of God's presence in your everyday life and work?
2. What would it look like to build a community centred around relationship to Jesus, and seeking his presence?
3. What are the 'ornaments' we might need to take off (Ex 33) to better pursue God's presence?
4. Is there anything the Holy Spirit might be challenging us about in the area of prayer?

Pray (10 mins)

Invite people to pray. This could either be all together or in the groups you've been in for discussion. This could be a chance to pray for one another personally, pray for the community, the church, or our city. You may find it helpful to change this weekly depending on what topics / themes we're covering.