

Connect Group Discussion Guide

SERMON DATE	SERMON SERIES	SERMON TITLE
04/03/2022	The Word Became Flesh	From Pressure to Presence
Message on YouTube	https://youtu.be/0E7Pe21742U	

MESSAGE ABSTRACT:

As Jesus continues to walk with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, we examine His instructions found in John 16.

He follows up his discourse about the world hating by reminding His disciples that they will face pressure—the rejection of the world, who will be convinced their canceling others will be doing God a favor.

It's a warning, He says, worth remembering. Remembering because He's leaving. But not leaving us alone, because He will send a Helper, the Holy Spirit to convict the world and to guide us in all truth. And that's a good thing, Jesus said, because it's better that He goes. The Spirit can be with all who love Him at all times.

The presence of the Holy Spirit shapes the believer in three ways:

1. Gives joy. No matter what our suffering, we can live in deep joy.
2. Gives love. The love of the Father, the same love He had for His son, is now ours to enjoy.
3. Gives peace. No more fear or anxiety about the future. He has overcome the world.

When we firmly understand the gift we have been given in the Spirit, it frees us from the things we cannot control. God has it. We can rejoice and trust instead.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In what way did God speak to you in the message this past Sunday?

2. Have you been rejected or “canceled” by someone you love? How did that affect you? In what ways did it shape your thinking about the rejection that Jesus faced?
3. What are ways you can be more attentive to the Spirit in your life? How do you know if you are keeping “in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25)
4. Which is easier for you: prayer or Bible reading/study? Discuss why they are both important and how you might strengthen the one that is more difficult for you.
5. What’s one step you plan to take as a result of this study?