



Discussion Questions and Practices

1. God's Name, God's Nature — Experiencing *hesed* in Jesus

Key Verse: John 1:14 — “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Other Scriptures: Exodus 34:6; Psalm 136

- In what ways have you personally experienced God's steadfast love (*hesed*) and truth (*'emet*) in your life? How does that experience change the way you show up in community?

2. Presence Becomes Vocation — From God in Us to Us in the World

Key Verse: John 14:17 — “He lives with you and will be in you.”

Other Scriptures: Exodus 13:21–22; 1 Kings 8:10–11; Romans 8:9–11

- What does it mean that God's presence has moved from temples made with hands to the hearts of His people? How should that change the way we live in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, and families?
- Can you think of a time when someone's presence with you carried God's peace or encouragement? What might it look like for you to become that kind of presence for someone else?

3. A Non-Anxious Presence — No Agenda but Love

Key Verse: Matthew 11:28–30 — “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest... For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Other Scriptures: John 14:27; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6–7

- Our culture is filled with hurry and anxiety. How can slowing down and being fully present with others become a form of evangelism?

4. Shalom in Public — Living for the Sake of the World

Key Verse: Isaiah 49:6 “I will make you a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Other Scriptures: Genesis 12:3; Deuteronomy 4:6–7; Matthew 5:9; John 14:15

- How do you see God’s call for His people to be a blessing to the nations carried forward in the life and teaching of Jesus?
- What are small, ordinary ways you can bring public expressions of Jesus’ shalom—wholeness, peace, justice—into your community this week?

Five Practices for becoming “In our Community”:

Consider the five possible practices listed below. Read through the list and ask God which ones He might lead you to practice this week. Reflect at the end of each day on how it went and jot down your observations. Think about inviting someone to join you in one of these practices.

1) **A Prayer Walk Rule**

Choose one regular route—same time, same streets. Pray blessings over homes and businesses. Don’t strategize; **behold**. Ask for eyes to see, ears to hear, a heart to love. (Over time, you’ll learn names. Let love set the pace.)

2) **Ruthlessly Eliminate Hurry**

Set “unhurried margins” into your week: unscheduled 15-minute buffers before/after key moments (school pickup, grocery runs, staff meetings). Refuse to weaponize your calendar. Presence requires *availability*.

3) **Emotionally Healthy Availability**

Do a weekly check-in: *Am I showing up as a calm, attentive person? Where am I reactive?* Invite Jesus into the places that keep you from presence (shame, anger, fear).

4) **A Table Every Week**

One shared table—home or café—with someone outside your close circle. Keep it simple. Ask good questions. Listen twice as much as you speak. Pray silently for them as you drive home.

5) **Small Peacemaking**

Name one fracture you can mend this week: an apology, a meal to someone across a political line, an introduction between two people who could help each other. Peacemaking is **creative**, not merely reactive.